

jem Newsletter

September 2023

From the Director's Desk

The month of August could be well described as a hateful month for the Indian minorities. While August last year, saw a total of 29 verified hate cases against the minorities, August 2023 witnessed 114 such cases. Haryana led the lists of states which saw the highest number of hate crimes against the minorities, particularly the Muslims. Similarly, Muslims continued to be on target of the right-wing Hindutva organisations in Nuh, Haryana, throughout the month. The Punjab and Haryana High Court, which questioned the illegal demolitions in the state and described it as 'ethnic cleansing' ordered the state government to immediately stop the demolitions, which were amplified in the international media also, providing the breathing space to the beleaguered community.

Observing the trend of Hate Crimes in August, it could be said that now the slogan, 'Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maro salon ko' has become the rallying cry of the right-wing Hindutva organisations in the country. Apart from Nuh violence the other anti-Muslim cases, which shocked the nation included the manner in which education has been communalised in the country and several cases of teachers urging the students to mock or shame their Muslim co-students came to light from U.P., New Delhi and elsewhere. Similarly, India's successful mission to the moon was communalised, when various social media platforms posted cartoons saying 'Moon is not waqf property', a mission on the success of which, every Indian rejoiced and felt proud was communalised by the right Hindutva organisations. In addition several incidents of atrocities against the Dalit community were reported from different parts of India, along with the continued campaign by the government against the Muslim Personal Law and imposition of a Uniform Civil Code.

Another contentious issue addressed by the judiciary related to the abrogation of Article 370 of the constitution, the Chief justice of India, Justice Chandrachud took a very strong stand against the legality of the central

government's action and also asked by what time the statehood would be given back to the territory, though going by the agenda setting machinery of the ruling party, any one mentioning this issue is considered to be a traitor, but the CJI based his assessment and questions on the law and constitution of India, which gives solace to the common citizen, that everything is not lost yet and still there are some judges and leaders who could say what is not right, and how it could be fixed. The Supreme Court also advised the media to impose self-regulation, so as not to become the mouthpiece of the powers that be or become an accessory of spreading the Hate Speech and also not to conduct media trials. In the background of the Nuh violence, the Supreme Court yet again reiterated its order against Hate Speeches and clarified that its order against Hate Speech is applicable alike to all and states are bound to take action without any discrimination on the basis of religion. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti said on 20th August

The JEM Team also observed a rather new and obnoxious trend on New Delhi's road, where several cars were spotted with the sticker "Hindu" adorning their rear windshields. Earlier people used to proclaim their castes and political affiliations through these stickers, but this new trend of announcing your religion openly is a rather alarming and unwanted trend. Perplexingly such stickers are available at various e-commerce websites.

In his speech to the nation on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day, PM Modi spelled out a road map for the 'Amrit Kaal' of India, i.e. the next 25 years in which Indian would be a global power, he identified three 'ills' which afflict the nation i.e. corruption, nepotism and appeasement and identified the path to progress through – probity, transparency and objectivity. We only hope that he'll walk the talk.

Mahmood Asád Madani
Director, JEM

August Roundup



The ominous trend from July-end continued in the month of August too with disturbing reports of communal enmity being reported from Nuh-Mewat, Haryana.

As reported by *The Hindustan Times* in just one district of Haryana 11 towns and hamlets were targeted. Within five days, 1,208 buildings and other structures - overwhelmingly **Muslim-owned**, were demolished. People whose properties were demolished claimed they were not given any notice by the administration or even informed before the drive began. The numbers, would likely have been higher if not for the Punjab & Haryana high court's intervention on 7th August in the matter. The court asked the state if it was indulging in "ethnic cleansing" given the one-sidedness of the demolitions before staying them. During the hearing, the High Court issued a stay order on the ongoing demolition drive in Nuh. The Court had initiated suo motu cognisance based on news articles reporting the ongoing demolition activities in Nuh and Gurgaon, which were a consequence of the communal clashes. Newspaper reports quoted the Haryana Home Minister directly, where he mentioned that the use of bulldozers was a form of "illaj" (treatment) since the government was probing the communal violence. The Court, in

reference to this statement by the Home Minister said, "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We are of the considered opinion that the Constitution of India protects the citizens of this country and no demolitions as such can be done without following the procedure prescribed in law," the court observed. According to official data, the demolished properties were spread across the cities and villages of Nuh, Nalhar, Punhana, Tauru, Nangal Mubarakpur, Shahpur, Aagon, Adbar Chowk, Nalhar Road, Tiranga Chowk and Nagina. It was among the largest demolitions the region has seen.

Commenting on the Nuh communal violence and also the incidents reported from Manipur, writer Chetan Bhagat in his opinion piece 'How much hate is too much?' in *The Times of India*, wrote that the video from Manipur shook the nation and drew unanimous condemnation. The fact that a mob could do this in broad daylight in 2023 is deeply unsettling. Whatever be the differences between the local communities, such actions cannot be justified. However, the united censure against this incident brought out something else about the Indian society and politics: that Indians have limits to the majoritarian superiority they want. Bigotry, while rampant, has its boundaries for most





Indians. This slight Hindu entitlement is a real sentiment. This was ignored for decades, but was felt by millions. The current government mastered the art of tapping to it and gave it formal credence. They won handsomely for it, with two back-to-back record victories in Lok Sabha elections. Democracy, after all, is about catering to the will of the people, and this is what the uncle (and millions of others wanted).

However, sometimes it all gets ‘too much,’ like it did in the Manipur video, where a majority community mob is attacking minority community women. Uncle and his friends hated and condemned the video. To them too, this was not a civilised society. When something really bad happens, like it did in the Manipur video, the uncle feels a deep dissonance. He just wanted to give the country a good Hindu way to live (which according to him is the best way). It is here when something shifts, and uncle may do something unthinkable – switch his political support. He just wanted to support the good Hindu way of life, not be part of a mob or seen as supporting the mob.

Bhagat opined that polarising politics carries that risk of being a slippery slope. Like chilis, a little bit of it is ok and can add zing to your dish. Balance and understanding the psyche of the average Hindu supporter is key. Manipur should never have been allowed to escalate like it did. It

doesn't take long for a soft, seemingly harmless bigotry to turn into something reprehensible. And that's neither good for the nation, nor does it help politically. Keep bigotry in check, or best, avoid it.

On 2nd August the whole country was shocked by another ghastly Hate Crime, when a RPF (Railway Protection Force) jawan assigned to the train shot dead his superior and three others with his assault rifle. A timeline carried

by Times Of India showed that he terrorised passengers on the moving train for more than 40 minutes as he walked through bogies looking for victims before he was taken into custody. Commenting editorially on the incident *Times of India* opined that India's internal security apparatus has grown in size and become more militarised, yet the concern here is whether there's equal attention paid to the people who make up the forces. Eventually, it's a human being who decides when to fire. Is there an adequate system to identify troubled personnel in all forces?

Commenting on the Nuh clashes *The Hindustan Times* in its editorial, ‘Nuh clashes show governance gaps’ - asked very pertinent questions, it commented that in every country, including India, the Capital is among the most sensitive of installations, protected by layers upon layers of security. Hence, if the fringes





of a Capital get singed by communal clashes a month before it is hosting 20 heads of State, hard questions need to be asked of the Haryana administration. That danger was building up, was apparent days ago when Mohit Yadav or Monu Manesar — despite being wanted in a string of serious cases, including in the murder of two Muslim men in Bhiwani, he remains miraculously at large — released a video confirming his presence at a religious rally, but the authorities did nothing. Did the administration not know about the video? Why was Mr Yadav not picked up? Why was the planned rally allowed to go ahead despite the volatile situation in Nuh? Was the intelligence gathering so poor that the administration didn't know of the powder keg it was sitting on?

In its editorial of 3rd August *Times of India* once again focussed on Nuh clashes, it opined that triggering videos by “absconder” Monu Manesar and another Bajrang Dal leader Bittu Bajrang, combined with a few counter-videos, very clearly set the stage for a faceoff. The unrest spread to neighbouring Gurugram too, violence reaching within a few kms of the offices of blue-chip companies. As the millennium city and the rest of the state crawl back to normalcy, the Khattar administration must answer why it did little to avert

a preventable crisis. It further commented that after Nuh violence, VHP and Bajrang Dal held even more assemblies in Delhi-NCR. The Supreme Court directed the Centre and state governments concerned to ensure that no hate speech or violence took place during these. But there is an air of impunity to these organisations, as to vigilantes like Manesar. The state machinery seems to look the other way.

They seem sheltered from the full weight of the law. But the lawlessness that they wreak is very, very costly for India. The country has a few years' window to grab the China+1 opportunity and reap prosperity for its citizens. But every riot that overnight grinds business to halt or worse, daunts new investments. And every tear in social harmony in one place, hurts nationwide. India can't afford Nuhs. GoI should understand that.

The Hindu in its editorial on Nuh clashes commented that the state must remain impartial in situations of communal conflict, it further opined that at a time when the tremors of ethnic clashes in Manipur have not yet settled, communal clashes in Haryana, in regions abutting the national capital, claimed six lives this week. Policing in Haryana has been shown up to be inadequate in the face of communal incitement by groups associated with the



ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. The Haryana administration must take strict action against the perpetrators of the violence, and be vigilant and impartial to ensure peace.

Sukumar Muralidharan writing for *The Hindu* on Nuh violence opined that the recent violence in Nuh district of Haryana, not far from the national capital, has followed a familiar template. Religious events may once have been occasion for affirming a sense of community through shared piety. They are now incomplete without a brazen display of aggression. Hindutva as ideology expresses its expansionist intent in the religious procession, adorned with a symbolism that is under constant invention. State power is now an accessory to its programme, rather than a countervailing force that upholds constitutional principles. Vigilantism in the scholarly understanding is an ensemble of coercive practices that seek to impose a moral order, an alternate system of legitimacy. This could work in defiance of the writ of the state, but the situation in India is ominously different. Hindutva vigilantism here appropriates and subverts the state's monopoly of legitimate coercion. And in that lies great danger for the constitutional order.

Nistula Hebbar, in her article, 'The aggressive arm of Hindutva', published in *The Hindu* traced the origin and rise of the Bajrang Dal, alleged to be the main villain behind communal clashes in Nuh Haryana. Nistula wrote that Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of the VHP, is considered the most strident arm of the Sangh, known for its involvement in controversial campaigns in the name of cow protection, anti-conversion and preventing 'Love Jihad'. The Bajrang Dal was established in 1984, for the "safety" of the Ram - Janaki Raths, during the ram temple movement led by LK Advani, which were making the rounds in various districts of Uttar Pradesh,



mobilising support for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya at the site where the Babri Masjid stood, but now it represents the muscle behind the aggressive Hindutva agenda, which includes issues such as cow protection, anti-conversion activities and mobilising support against 'Love Jihad'. After the demolition of the Babri Masjid, the organisation was banned for a year by the Centre, and once the ban was revoked in 1993, former BJP MP Vinay Katiyar became its first all-India chief. The Dal is also connected to regular protests and attacks on





was found wanting. The first response of the administration was poorly planned and inadequate, and its subsequent (in) action smacked of bias. While communal tension in the region has been simmering for the past few years, the protests against cow vigilantism only mounted after the brutal killing of Junaid and Nasir in Rajasthan's Bhiwani district

couples during Valentine's Day, considered a western concept that encourages "immoral" behaviour. Anti-conversion activities are also high on the Bajrang Dal's agenda. A BJP spokesman, Mr. Bansal claims that the Bajrang Dal's activities have led to the rescue of 85,000 gauvansh (cows), and that "thousands of FIRs have been filed on cow smugglers. We have also helped get nearly 25,000 of our sisters, who were being coerced into love jihad, out of the situation."

Vibhuti Narain Rai, a former director general of police, Uttar Pradesh, and the chronicler of the 1987 Hashimpura, U.P. killings, in his opinion piece, 'In Nuh clashes lurk old patterns of sectarianism' on the response of the administration and the local police over Nuh incident, published by *The Hindustan Times* opined that the first response of the administration was poorly planned, and its subsequent action smacked of bias. Without going into the graphic details of what happened in Nuh during the initial waves of communal violence last week, one can say that the handling of the whole episode by the law-enforcement agencies was shoddy and unprofessional. The response and reaction of Haryana's police force — which is supposed to be better equipped than most other state forces in the country and is responsible for safeguarding law and order in regions of rapid economic growth —

earlier this year. Many first information reports (FIRs) of mob violence against cow vigilante groups were registered. Most of the victims in these cases were Muslims; but the police inactivity in many of these cases — especially in its high-profile failure in nabbing wanted cow vigilante Mohit Yadav, or Monu Manesar — fuelled a general impression that administrative action in these cases was not only inadequate but full of communal prejudice. The procession during which the rioting broke out is hardly a few years old. It started after the present political dispensation came into power in the state, stoked by some Right-wing groups as a show of strength. The Nuh riots are a classic replication of what has happened in dozens of communal violence incidents over several decades. There is, unfortunately, a pattern in the ways the administration acts (or doesn't), with three common factors: First, the violence always initially begins as a clash between communities, but over time, morphs into a fight between the groups and the police. Second, the riots break out in an apparently spontaneous moment, but, later, it transpires that preparations were going on for quite some time. And finally, at the end of the day, minority communities are left with the perception that the State did not do what it was supposed to do, or in some cases, did what was constitutionally inappropriate. The violence in Nuh holds a lesson that we must learn urgently



because such instances can throw a spanner in the works of making India into a \$5 trillion economy. The flames that singed the showpiece of foreign investment and capital last week might not only reduce public and private property to ashes, but also threaten to extinguish the dream of a peaceful and prosperous India.

The Hindu in its editorial, ‘Communal penalty’ of 9th August opined that the idea of inflicting collective punishment on the Muslim community soon after any riot or communal disturbance seems to be an ingrained part of governance in Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states. The use of excavators to demolish houses, shops and other establishments has now spread to Haryana, after it was practised with impunity in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi last year. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has done well to stop authorities from continuing with their demolition drive in Gurugram and Nuh, that witnessed communal clashes, leaving six dead. Taking *suo motu* cognisance of reports about the demolition activity, the Bench has minced no words in raising the question whether the action is a sort of “ethnic cleansing”, as buildings belonging to a particular community were being brought down “under the guise of a law and order problem”. It has observed that there appears to be no order to demolish the buildings or prior notice to its occupants and

that the law and order situation was just a ruse. Few would disagree with the court’s characterisation of the action in Haryana. The same dubious and ambivalent messaging about the demolitions that one saw in other States is being witnessed in Haryana too. For legal purposes, officials will say the buildings are encroachments and are being removed as per law. For political purposes, it is made very clear that rioters are getting the treatment they deserve.

Anshul Trivedi, a member of the Congress Party, in his article, ‘Economic boycott of minorities — a new form of untouchability’ for *The Hindu* opined that the Hindutva is using pre-constitutional methods to disempower a community. It is not driven by the motive of maintaining ritual hierarchy but by the political imperatives of exclusion. In the wake of the violence in Haryana’s Nuh, calls for boycotting Muslim businesses were heard; however, this otherisation of marginalised groups has been a technique employed since the time of Independence and was flagged by Ambedkar who called it more effective than open violence. The act of collectively resolving to boycott Muslims reinforces their ‘othering’ and re-emphasises the VHP’s idea of ‘Hinduness’; reconstituting Hinduism, based on caste hierarchy, into a unified, ethnic whole, where the figure of the Dalit is replaced by the Muslim





as the significant ‘other’. These grave new developments need to be taken into cognisance and an urgent politico-legal response to such public calls for Muslim economic boycott is required as they militate against the principle of fraternity enshrined in the Constitution. This can be done by a progressive redefinition of untouchability or by expanding the scope of the anti-boycott laws to include discrimination against religious communities.

The Hindustan Times in its 9th August edition reported from Lucknow that the U.P. state government tabled a 1983 report which investigated the Moradabad, U.P. riots of 1980, in the state legislative assembly on 8th August, the one-man judicial probe reported that the riots were ‘planned’ but the RSS and the BJP had no role in starting or flaring-up the riots. The violence on August 13, 1980 on Eid-ul-Fitr in the Uttar Pradesh city was the worst communal clash in India’s most-populous state since Independence. Forty-three years after communal riots killed at least 83 people and injured 112 others in Uttar Pradesh’s Moradabad town, the state government has tabled a report of a judicial commission that cleared the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the local administration of any wrongdoing, and blamed local Muslim political leaders instead for what it called the pre-planned violence. “No

government officer, employee or Hindu was responsible for fomenting trouble at Eidgah or other places. The RSS or the BJP nowhere came on the front in these riots. Even common Muslims were not responsible for violence. This was a handiwork of Muslim League led by Shamim Ahmad and Hamid Hussain alias Ajji and their supporters. The riots were pre-planned,” said the judge in the 458-page report tabled by state’s parliamentary affairs minister

Suresh Khanna in the state legislative assembly on 8th August. After the commission submitted its report to the state government in 1983, it was placed before various state cabinet 14 times to table it before the legislature. But the cabinet decided to not table the report under administrations run by the Congress, the BJP, Samajwadi Party, and Janata Dal. Earlier, on 12th May 2023, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, presided over by chief minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the proposal to table the report in the legislative assembly. What astounds you is that what was the need of tabling this report after 43 years, is this an attempt to whitewash the activities of the right-wing organisations and make them appear as peaceful, just eight-months before the next general election?

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman, an academician in his opinion piece, ‘Anatomy of a riot’ for *The Hindu* opined that the recent riots in Nuh showed a clear pattern of targeting Muslim



minorities. Though Hindu-Muslim violence is not new in India, the one that erupted in Nuh district and Gurgaon in Haryana recently has perhaps opened a new chapter in terms of its nature, character and consequences on Indian polity. Based on reports, this violence — it could be argued — is a result of competitive assertion of identities in a highly polarised polity which offers varied forms of patronage to non-state actors. Given the state response, it looks like the Muslim minority may end up paying a disproportionately greater price, as has often been the case in riots even in the non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) days of India's governance. Scholars might find it tempting to go back to Paul Brass's formulation of an institutionalised riot system (IRS), based on his study of riots in Aligarh and Meerut, to make sense of the spontaneity, and scale of this violence. He further opined that in his view, there is more to it than Brass's formulation. The political context of the sustained penetration of Hindu majoritarianism in various domains of state and society need to be factored in as well, particularly with regard to state indifference or complicity. The Haryana and Punjab Court's observation on Monday, describing bulldozer justice as "an exercise of ethnic cleansing is being conducted by the State," reveals a lot about the ideological intent of state response.

The Hindustan Times in its editorial, 'Bridge the divide' commenting on the public spat between the Assam Rifles and Manipur Police commented that the unprecedented face-off between the Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police has laid bare the disturbing fault lines inside the administration that is responsible for restoring peace and building bridges between two communities which have effectively partitioned the state, separated by a fractious buffer zone. Though the deep divide between Meiteis and Kukis had



already compromised the state's response to the violence that has killed 150 people and displaced 40,000, the new rift threatens to endanger the peace process altogether. This is particularly disturbing as the horrors unfolding in Manipur have captured the national consciousness, with efforts at the highest levels — from the Centre to the Supreme Court — to ensure a modicum of justice for the victims, especially the victims and survivors of sexual assault. The bitter public exchange between two forces responsible for the state's security threatens to jeopardise whatever little semblance of law and order that remains in Manipur.

Gautam Bhatia in his opinion piece, 'Demolitions as state-sanctioned collective punishment', for *The Hindu* opined that abandoning the rule of law for 'bulldozer justice' is the first step towards an authoritarian society where ensuring a person's safety, life and liberty will be at the whims and fancies of state officials. The demolitions in Nuh are just





the latest iteration of what has come to be called “bulldozer justice”. For more than a year, from Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, to Khambhat in Gujarat, to Jahangirpuri in Delhi, to Nagaon in Assam, to many others, the demolition of homes as a form of frontier justice (as a response to political violence) has become a standard feature of administration.

The Hindu in its editorial of 9th August ‘Communal punishment: On riots and demolitions’, commented that the idea of inflicting collective punishment on the Muslim community soon after any riot or communal disturbance seems to be an ingrained part of governance in Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States. For legal purposes, officials will say the buildings are encroachments and are being removed as per law. For political purposes, it is made very clear that rioters are getting the treatment they deserved. The newspaper further opined that using communal violence as a pretext to impose extra-legal punitive measures will invariably lead to bias, as officials implementing such orders will have no choice except to portray the occupants of the buildings to be razed as encroachers to retain the fig-leaf of legal justification and as anti-social elements for moral justification. In any case, to escape the charge of ignoring encroachments all this while and waiting for a riot to take action, they will have to provide evidence of serving notices on

the occupants and, if needed, backdate such notices. The judicial intervention should put an end to the pattern of using the state machinery to inflict misery on a section of the population.

Suhas Palshikar in his opinion piece ‘The rise of bulldozer governance’ for *The Indian Express* opined that besides routinely discarding procedures, the action betrays cynicism about all forms of accountability. India is going through a transformation from an incomplete and ongoing project of democracy,

living with the imperfections of democratic practice, to a surreal sense of having achieved democracy by discarding many practices that would normally be associated with it. While we await indigenously minted theorisations arguing how non-democratic practices make a democracy, it is worthwhile to remind ourselves of the many departures and distortions India’s democracy is in reality experiencing. Take the case of the bulldozer as a symbol of democratic government. It is not very often that elected governments and leaders seek to present themselves as being extra-tough and even vindictive towards citizens. In fact, the idea of minimum government (with maximum governance) emanates from the need to reduce unnecessary and intrusive regulation. A government that has to use physical coercion frequently or in an exemplary manner and exhibit it as tough action to restore law and order should be clearly seen as departing from





the democratic norm. But this is no more in New India where new norms of governance are evolving. It could be argued that all this happens because of our failed criminal justice system. While the weaknesses in that system are well known and even well documented, let us not forget that the strong arm of the state invariably crushes the weak, the poor and the marginalised. The stinging term “ethnic cleansing”

used by the Punjab and Haryana High Court might appear to some as exaggerated, but in all the instances of bulldozer governance, the poor and the marginalised have been at the receiving end. Independence was about asserting our individual and collective identity as citizens. Ironically, as we complete 75 years and more of that assertion, we find ourselves voluntarily reduced to the status of willingly bulldozed multitudes.

Neeti Nair in her opinion piece, ‘A brief history of India’s present’, published in [The Hindu](#) opined that Indians will have to choose between Godse’s Hindu Rashtra and the idea of India enshrined in the Constitution. She opined further that ‘Although the ordinary Indian is putting up a brave fight to douse these fires of hate, it seems akin to throwing a bucket of water at a wildfire’. Section 144 of the Indian Penal Code dutifully imposes a curfew; Sections 153A and 295A are used to arrest those who hurt religious sentiments, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is to punish those who commit crimes against castes. The Model Code of Conduct is supposed to penalise those who violate a “model code of conduct” during election time. All laws (journalists, historians and political scientists have documented in painstaking detail) have



been deployed selectively, politically. The suspension of the Internet is a new device, used with equal facility to curb the spread of information and misinformation (and cheating during examinations).

Abraham Thomas in his opinion piece for [The Hindustan Times](#) raised a very relevant point quoting the Supreme Court’s observation that while the definition of what constitutes Hate Speech is complex, there is a bigger problem of execution at the ground level. The court also sought the assistance of the Centre and states in this regard. The court while dealing with these petitions in October last year and later in January this year passed a slew of directions to curb hate speeches. The court devised a mechanism by which even in the absence of a complaint, the police could proceed against persons by registering criminal cases where hate speeches are made and even take precautionary measures to ensure such incidents are prevented before they take place. For classifying hate speech as a penal offence, a recommendation was made by the Law Commission in March 2017. It suggested insertion of new provisions – Section 153C (prohibiting incitement to hatred) and Section 505A (causing fear, alarm, or provocation of violence in certain cases) in the Indian Penal Code (IPC). At present, such crimes are booked



under Section 153A (promoting enmity), Section 295A (deliberate acts intended to outrage religious feelings) and Section 298 (uttering words to wound religious feelings of a person).

On 3rd of August, an article ‘Majoritarian Politics and the Plight of Dalits’ by Ram Puniyani published by [The Wire](#) discussed how despite the Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) claims of inclusive development, the conditions of weaker sections, particularly Dalits, are deteriorating due to the majoritarian politics. The BJP, along with its ideological parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is employing tactics to subjugate Dalits while expanding its electoral influence within the community. The question of extending reservations to Dalits who have converted to Islam, arguing that they face double marginalization and deserve affirmative action, the article says. It also discusses the BJP’s strategies, the influence of the RSS, and the importance of addressing the economic, social, and political challenges faced by the Dalit community.

[New York Times](#) in an article ‘India is on the Brink’ by Debashish Roy Chowdhury discussed the escalating violence and ethnic tensions in the Northeastern Indian state of Manipur, attributing it to the politics of Hindu supremacy, xenophobia, and religious polarization promoted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Ethnic violence

in Manipur, including incidents of sexual assault and gang rape, has surged, resulting in deaths and displacement. The author points out that India’s diversity is being torn apart by exclusionary politics that aim to reshape the nation into a Hindu-majority state. Under Modi’s rule, mob violence and vigilante groups have targeted minorities, especially Muslims. Lynchings, calls for genocide, and assaults on Muslims have become distressingly common. The article

also highlights the targeting of Christians in Manipur by the BJP-led government and Meitei militias, leading to rape, arson, and church burnings. The author argues that Modi’s party is redefining the Indian polity by choosing who belongs and ostracizing those who don’t, leading to increasing conflict and violence.

An article on the webportal [hindutvawatch.org](#) highlighted how Neha Patel, a notable woman cow vigilante in India, who leads the Pranian Foundation, a registered non-profit entity involved in policing the sale, transportation, or consumption of beef, primarily targeting Muslim minorities.





She operates in several Indian states, collaborating with other cow vigilante groups like Agniveer Foundation. Patel's activities are shared through social media, including videos featuring high-speed chases of vehicles suspected of carrying cattle, often leading to accidents and violence. She also conducts raids on Muslim households under suspicion of cattle slaughter, with incidents meticulously documented on camera. Patel's actions raise concerns about law enforcement's role in supporting her and her group's operations. Despite legal cases against her, Patel's influence has grown, and she's been involved in public events and demonstrations.

A group of current and retired faculty members from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) wrote an open letter, published in *The Indian Express*, in their personal capacity to corporate India, urging them to “de-fund hate speech” and take a stand against hate and misinformation. Deepak Malghan, an associate professor of Public Policy at IIMB, shared the letter, which emphasises that the risk of genocide in India

is no longer close to zero due to increasing levels of radicalisation and hate speech. The letter highlights the important role corporate leaders have in curbing the spread of hate and misinformation, and it calls on them to stop funding hate, support responsible stakeholders, and promote a welcoming work culture to prevent escalating violence and socioeconomic uncertainty in the country. The letter has garnered 17 signatories, including six retired professors.

On July 31, 2023, an incident involving a hate-laden speech and murder took place, which has been overshadowed by current events. Chetan Singh, a Railway Protection Force jawan, shot and killed his senior after an altercation on the Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast Express. He then proceeded to target and shoot three bearded Muslim men on the train. Singh's recorded rant displayed his anti-Muslim sentiments, blaming them for operating from Pakistan and urging support for leaders like Modi and Yogi. The media coverage initially focused on Singh's mental stability rather than his deliberate targeting of



Muslims, with some outlets even suggesting that the killings were accidental. However, local newspapers eventually reported on Singh's intentional actions fueled by hatred, leading to charges related to hate crimes. The opinion piece by Ajaz Ashraf, published by web portal newslandry.com highlighted the need to address the growing hatred and violence fueled by divisive narratives perpetuated by political parties and amplified by the media. The piece questions the role of media in spreading hate and emphasizes the need for media introspection, stricter regulations, and responsible financing to counteract this dangerous trend, as exemplified by the incident involving Chetan Singh.

As per a report by [The Hindustan Times](http://TheHindustanTimes.com), the Supreme Court has directed the Indian government to provide a report within three weeks about states that have not yet appointed nodal officers in each district, as previously directed in 2018, to combat crimes of mob lynching and hate crimes. This directive came during the hearing of petitions seeking measures to curb Hate Speech following recent

protests in Haryana and other areas advocating a social boycott of Muslims. The court aims to assess the effectiveness of nodal officers in districts and strengthen the mechanism established in 2018. It has asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to gather information on nodal officer appointments and propose guidelines for their roles, including recording hate speech instances and using CCTVs. The court also proposed forming committees in districts with significant hate speech cases for better handling and monitoring. Various advocates submitted suggestions on curbing hate speech, highlighting challenges in implementation due to unclear definitions and lack of political will.

In response to the anti-Muslim violence that occurred in Nuh, Haryana, following a rally by Hindutva groups on July 31, farmers and Khap panchayats in the Mewat region have taken a stand against hate and communal tensions. Web portal [The Wire](http://TheWire.com) reported that the farmers have held three major meetings in Jind, Hisar, and Mewat, aiming to counter the divisive atmosphere. Over 20 Khap panchayat meetings have also been held in the region.



At a Mahapanchayat in Rajasthan's Alwar, farmers vowed to combat hatred after the violence. These actions have led to a decrease in calls for Muslim boycotts by Hindutva groups in Haryana. Farmers emphasized solidarity and unity to prevent further bloodshed and polarization in the lead-up to upcoming elections.



The rejection of hate politics by the dominant community has provided reassurance to minority communities. Despite tensions, police denied permission for another rally by Hindutva groups, and the farmers' united stance seems to have helped avert further crisis in the area.

Renowned author and Booker Prize winner [Arundhati Roy](#) has expressed deep concern over the unchecked rise of Hindu extremism in India, warning that it poses a significant threat to the country's democracy. In an interview, she highlighted recent violent attacks on Muslims, including fatal incidents, and linked these acts to the ruling BJP's association with the RSS ideology. Roy criticized the changing laws, killings, and dismantling of the state's institutions, suggesting that Muslims are being reduced to second-class citizens. She pointed out the police's lack of intervention and the vulnerability of Muslims in the face of these challenges, while emphasizing the precarious state of India's democracy.

The Indian [Supreme Court](#) has reaffirmed that hate speeches against any religion should be treated equally and dealt with according to the law, regardless of the offender's faith. A division of the court stated that both sides of the religious spectrum must face equal consequences for hate speech, referencing guidelines issued in a 2018 judgment aimed at

preventing mob lynching and hate speeches. The court responded to a petitioner's claim of a "death to the Hindus" slogan raised during a rally by stating that hate speech, regardless of the perpetrator's religion, would not be tolerated. The court allowed time for the Centre and the Haryana government to respond regarding the formation of committees to examine and verify hate speech cases as per the 2018 guidelines. The court has been working to establish mechanisms at the local level for addressing hate speech and preventing the apex court from being the first resort for filing FIRs.

[The Indian Express](#) reported that an FIR has been lodged against Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of Alt News, for allegedly revealing the identity of a seven-year-old Muslim boy involved in an incident where he was slapped by classmates on a teacher's instructions. Zubair was among the journalists who shared a video of the incident on social media, later deleting it, leading to the case being filed under Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice Act. The incident occurred at Neha Public School in Muzaffarnagar, where the teacher allegedly instigated students to attack the boy based on his faith. Zubair expressed surprise at being singled out, given that other outlets also shared the video, suggesting potential targeting by the police.

Hate Crime and Hate Speech Cases, August 2023



The month of August started on an ominous note, following the incidents of last days of July in Haryana's Nuh-Mewat region. On 1st August, Hindi daily *Dainik Jagran* and Twitter reported a case of hate instigation from Haryana's Sonipat. A BJP district president Tirth Rana could be seen instigating violence and warning to demolish mosques in the area, in a video posted on YouTube, on the night of 31st July, showing him apparently addressing a Hindu *panchayat*, he said if homes can be demolished, why couldn't "illegal" mosques be demolished, too? If the mosques from where stones were pelted on the Hindu rally have documents, then they should show them, otherwise they are illegal structures and should be demolished too. The speech was apparently aimed at further vitiating the communal atmosphere of Haryana.

Web portal *hindutvawach.org* on 1st August reported a Hate Speech delivered by hate monger Suresh Chavhanke at an event organised at Varanasi in U.P. In the video shared on Twitter, he said, we waited for 235 years for this day, now we will not wait any longer, and will soon takeover Gyanvapi masjid in Varanasi.

The Hindustan Times on 3rd August reported a yet another Hate Speech from Faridabad, Haryana. Bittu Bajrangi, a self-styled cow vigilante, who was

present at the VHP's rally in Nuh on 31st July, which apparently triggered widespread violence in Haryana, said some people at the rally indeed carried weapons but those were for worship. "We participated in the rally with women and children. Will we attack anyone? After our worship at the temple, we had food and a *kirtan* was held. As we set out to return, we saw the buses in front of us were put on fire. There was a mosque nearby and firing started from there.

Twitterati Zakir Ali Tyagi posted a video on 1st August spreading hate, doing rounds on the social media in which an unidentified person could be seen calling for violence in Haryana. In the video, while holding a sword, he said, "all Hindutva organisations must leave aside their differences and should come on the streets to surround Mewat (referring to the Muslim localities) from all sides, you must keep your weapons ready to teach these Jihadis a lesson, not a single jihadi should be spared."

Web portal *hindutvawach.org* on 1st August shared a video from Raghunathpura, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, in which *Hindu Jagran Manch* leader Kamal Gautam, could be seen delivering a Hate Speech demonising Muslims. He also called for economic boycott of Muslims.

The official Twitter handle of U.P. State Congress shared a video on 1st August of U.P. Minister Raghuraj Pratap Singh, went viral on social media where he could be seen giving instruction to the Police to encounter a Muslim boy named *Farhan*





after a fight broke out between two groups of students in a hostel. A website giving details of the incident reported that in the case of beating of a Hindu youth in AMU hostel, Singh is speaking to the station in-charge that the victim Akash Baghel is the son of his acquaintance and the accused Farhan should be dealt with severely and even killed in an encounter.

On 1st August, web portal *thewire.in* and twitterati Zakir Ali Tyagi on his Twitter handle shared a video from Badshahpur, Gurugram, Haryana, where an extremist crowd could be seen targeting Muslim shops and vandalising Muslim properties while shouting 'Jai Shri Ram'. A mob of about 200 men reportedly gathered at the main market in Badshahpur and targeted shops selling biryani. As per report, another group of men also reportedly vandalised and looted shops at Pataudi Chowk on Basai Road in Gurugram.

Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 1st August reported another video from Bahadurgarh, Haryana showing a saffron donning mob of Bajrang Dal members taking out a rally shouting hateful and provocative violent invoking slogans: *Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maro salon ko* (shoot the traitors of India). A police van could be seen crossing the mob, without taking any action. A traffic police cop can also be seen walking alongside the mob, thus showing covert police support to such mobs in Haryana.

A Twitter post on 1st August reported an incident from Haryana's Sultanpur. In the video, Sultanpur BJP MLA Vinod Singh and KNI school principal, Alok Kumar Singh, are seen brutally thrashing a Muslim auto driver with the help of their goons. The auto driver suffered multiple injuries and was admitted to the hospital.

A Twitter post on 1st August reported that hate preacher Suresh Chavhanke once again spewed venom against Muslims on his twitter handle. While sharing a video uploaded by *Sudarshan News*, he commented, "This rescue operation of women is not from Syria or Afghanistan but from Mewat to VAT border in Delhi NCR. The Hindus of mini Pakistan Mewat cannot even go on their religious journey."

Web portal *inshortnews.com* posted a video on

1st August, which showed Bajrang Dal members holding a demonstration near Nirman Vihar metro station in Delhi after the Vishva Hindu Parishad called for a protest over the communal clashes that broke out in Haryana's Nuh

A video surfaced on social media on 2nd August, which showed that hours before violence erupted in Haryana, Surendra Jain, General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad was present at Nuh's Nalhar Mahadev Mandir (final destination of the Brajmandal Yatra), where he delivered a Hate Speech against Muslims in Mewat

Web portal *firstpost.in* on 2nd August, reported a yet another incident from Mumbai Maharashtra. Muslim girl students, enrolled at Acharya College in Chembur, found themselves at the centre of a controversy when they were allegedly denied entry into the institute due to wearing hijab or burqas. According to the students, they were instructed to remove their burqas before being allowed inside the college premises.

On 2nd August, a video posted on Facebook showed a radically motivated person, identifying himself as an Indian Army and Hindutva soldier, can be seen inciting violence and raising hateful slogans like *Desh ke Gaddaron Ko Goli Maro Saalo ko* (*Shoot the traitors*). He was also seen demonising Muslims by comparing Muslims with a *mad dog* and asked everyone to shoot them.

On 2nd August, Sudarshan News, posted a video on its Twitter handle, showing where Editor-in-Chief Suresh Chavhanke again spewing venom against Muslims by demanding that 2002 Gujarat model be implemented in Haryana. The rationale behind this demand is quite transparent that apparently he was demanding a re-enactment of Gujarat riots pattern of 2002 in Haryana.

The Hindu on 2nd August reported a disturbing incident of Muslims being forcefully evicted from Gurgaon's Palra village. A day after open threats were issued to them, residents of a slum cluster in Palra village of Gurugram's Sector 70A on 2nd August, said majority of the families, most of them from West Bengal, fled the area while the remaining continue to live in fear with some spending the night in a wooded area even as the



Gurugram police continue to deny any incident in the area.

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 3rd August reported an incident of physical attack from Bareilly U.P. A 24-years-old Dalit man in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly died at a hospital, weeks after he was allegedly beaten up by four people with iron rods after he refused their demand for a feast and liquor on the birth of his son, citing a financial crunch, police said on Tuesday. A case was registered against four people under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

A video on Twitter and Facebook was shared on 3rd August, by Twitterati Meer Faisal in which a leader of Bajrang Dal could be seen asking his supporters to attack Muslims wherever they are seen. Along with several leaders of the Bajrang Dal, Neeraj Vats gave the Hate Speech live on Facebook.

A video of Bajrang Dal activists was widely circulated on social media on 3rd August, in which the local leader of this right-wing organisation could be seen threatening Muslim vendors in Hisar, Haryana to leave the town immediately, otherwise they will have to face the consequences. In the video, they were also seen raising anti-Muslim slogans like *Desh ke Gaddaron Ko Goli Maron Salo ko* (Shoot the traitors of this nation), which apparently seems to have the Hate Anthem of right-wing organisations and *Jab Mulle Kate Jayenge Ram Ram Chillayenge* (When Muslims will be cut down, they'll cry Jai Shree Ram)

Web portal of Hindi daily *Amar Ujala*, News18 UP and Facebook on 3rd August reported about and shared a video of VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi making a controversial statement on recent communal riots in Nuh. In the video, she was also seen spreading lies that a Muslim killed Prophet Mohammed (Pbuh), his wife, his daughter and his sons, besides equating Muslim with terrorism.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 3rd August reported an anti-Muslim rally from Roorkee, Uttarakhand, where VHP members organised a rally raising derogatory slogans against Muslims. "Na mullon ka na qazi ka, yeh desh hai Veer Shivaji ka (This nation doesn't belong to mullah and Qazis i.e. Muslims, it belongs to people like veer Shivaji).

In an another video, shared and reported by *Hindutvawatch.org* from U.P. on 3rd August, the VHP organised an anti-Muslim rally at Prayagraj, U.P., where slogans like *Desh ke gaddaron ko, Goli maro salon ko* (shoot the traitors of our country) were raised. Apparently all this amounts to continue with creating a hate filled atmosphere in the country against Muslims till the next year's general elections.

Web portal *indiatoday.in* reported on 3rd August, a yet another incident of moral policing from Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka. Allegedly, the right-wing activists of the Sangh Parivar waylaid a vehicle at around 9 pm and assaulted the driver, Mohammed Ashique (22) a resident of Ujire, apparently for the reason that the passenger was a Hindu girl. The police registered a case and an investigation is on. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had instructed the police to take strict action against those getting involved in moral policing incidents in the state.

Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 3rd August reported another incident of an anti-Muslim rally from Kurukshetra, Haryana. A local organisation *Samast Hindu Samaj* organised a march with a bulldozer and raised hateful slogans: *Desh ke*



gaddaron ko, Goli maro salon ko (shoot the traitors of our country).”

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 3rd August shared a video on its twitter handle, which showed a group of Bajrang Dal activists taking out a rally in Khurja, Bulandshahar, U.P. In the rally there seen raising slogans like *Jai Shri Ram* and *Bharat Mata ki jai*, apparently to incite the Hindu population of the city.

On 3rd August, NDTV reported a case of arson from Tauru, Nuh District in Haryana. As per the report a motorcycle-borne assailant hurled Molotov cocktails at two mosques located in the town. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. While one of the mosques is located near Vijay Chowk, the other is situated near a police station in the town. Both mosques suffered some damage.

Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 4th August reported about a yet another anti-Muslim rally from Uttarakhand's Dehradun. The VHP and Bajrang Dal joined forces to organise another rally that was marked by hate speeches targeting Muslims and their faith. One of the leaders spoke virulently claiming that the suppression and murder of Hindus has continued for long and “Now the ‘fundamentalists’ from mosques are scared since the Hindu has awakened.”

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 4th August uploaded a video on its website, in which a group



of Hindutva extremists could be seen hurling anti-Muslim slurs and beating a Muslim street vendor, Arif, who was selling pillows in a Hindu locality in Makronia, Sagar, M.P.

On 4th August a video was shared on Twitter which showed a journalist interviewing a 75-years-old Muslim, a labour migrant, the journalist could be seen trying to demonise the Muslim community and putting the blame on Muslims for the recent communal violence in Nuh, Haryana. In her narration the journalist could be seen asking the interviewees, “are you not well? Were you too involved in stone pelting?”, then in her narration she could be seen saying wherever we (Hindus) live in majority, we live peacefully and do not target Muslims, but the same is not with you people (Muslims).

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 4th August reported a yet another case of a Hate Speech delivered at an event organised at Balesar, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. In the video it could be seen that the Bajrang Dal-VHP co-organised event, titled *Shaurya Sanchalan* event, where several far-right speakers delivered hate speeches threatening violence against the Muslim.

A video was shared on Twitter on 4th August from Rajasthan's Sanganer-Muhana area near Jaipur, Rajasthan where some unruly crowd caught two



Muslim youths, who were going home after offering *Juma Namaaz*, they were assaulted and forced to chant *Jai Shree Ram*. As per the report, a case has been registered and the police detained 5 persons related to the incident.

On 5th August, a video originating from Rajasthan's Julmi village in Kota district, was shared on twitter, which showed a BJP MLA first illegally taking over a historical mosque, which comes under Waqf property, with the help of police and was later seen offering *pooja* inside the Masjid premises. Apparently this has become a new modus operandi to mentally harass the Muslim population in complete violation of the ASI Act.

Web portal *siasat.com* on 5th August 2023, reported a yet another incident of hate crime from Chartor, Gujarat. A video clip surfaced on various social media platforms showing a group of right-wing activists beating a Muslim man named, Umed Khan Baloch for transporting buffaloes in a pick-up van. The incident reportedly took place on 22nd July 22, however, the gruesome video came into the spotlight on 5th August only. So far no FIR has been registered about the case.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 5th August reported yet another hate rally organised at Mahendragarh, Haryana, where right-wing leaders with association to the Bajrang Dal delivered a provocative speech against the Muslims and called them traitors.

On 5th of August, a video circulated on social media from Meerut, U.P. where a group of Bajrang Dal people attacked and vandalised a Masjid, which is hardly 500 metres from the Sadar Bazar Police station. While playing DJ at the mosque gate, they tied saffron cloth on the masjid's gate to incite communal riots.



Fact checking website *hatedetector.com* on 5th August reported a case of mob lynching from West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district, where a Hindu mob lynched a Muslim man, Rahim Ali allegedly on charges of theft.

Web portal *thetelegraphonline.in* posted a video on its website on 6th August, where Muslim residents of Nuh, Haryana, could be seen accusing the state government of selective demolition by bulldozers in the town. One of the residents while talking to the Telegraph said, "The authorities have started this bulldozer justice by demolishing homes and shops belonging to Muslims only. Why have they not demolished a single home of those responsible for the violence and who openly brandished weapons at the rally?" A JUH delegation visited the demolition site and arranged relief material for the affected families, whose houses were demolished. Sources said illegal constructions on 2.6 acres of land around Nalhar Medical College in Nuh town were also demolished, including many medical stores thus depriving the patients of the recent violence getting medical supplies for wound treatments quickly.

Hindi daily *Amar Ujala* and web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 6th August reported an



incident from Uttarakhand's Dehradun city. In a video reported by India TV, Bajrang Dal and *Hindu Jagran Manch* organised a protest against Mussorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) over Muslims offering prayers in one of the flats allotted under its housing schemes, claiming that it is being turned into a mosque.

Web portals *hindutvawatch.org* and *sentinelassam.com* on 6th August reported a yet another incident of physical attack from Magurmari, Kokrajhar, Assam. In the video, an angry mob consisting of Hindus tied up a Muslim and a tribal man with ropes before subjecting them to a brutal assault on suspicion of stealing cows. According to the report Kokrajhar police arrested Kausik Mandal and Rinku Roy, who were involved in the attack on 7th August as prime accused of the incident.

Financial Express on 6th August reported a yet another controversial speech telling Muslims of India that, "we" will treat all those who hail India as brothers but would not step back from taking the lives of those who speak against India. Speaking at an event of party workers at Bangrot in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district, the BJP MP Kailash Vijayvargiya, said, "We are not opponents of anybody. All those who say *Bharat Mata ki Jai* are our brothers and we can lay down our lives for them. But, those who will speak against *Bharat Mata*, we will not step back from even taking their lives."

On 6th August, various social media platforms reported about multiple letters being circulated on the social media that warned, "Muslims hawkers, businessmen, and beggars will not be allowed to enter 19 villages in Haryana for plying their trade or conduct business, this decision has been taken in view of the atrocities against our Hindu brothers in Nuh". As per social media reports, Sarpanchs (headmen) of 19 villages in Haryana's Mahendragarh district had sent such letters to the SDM-

Mahendragarh, in which Muslims were given this warning.

A video of a protest rally jointly organised by Bajrang Dal and the VHP circulated on Twitter on 6th August against an alleged case of love jihad from Chamba, Tehri district of Uttarakhand. In the video, BD/VHP activists can be seen forcefully getting the shops belonging to Muslims in the city closed giving them an ultimatum to leave the place immediately.

The Indian Express on 6th August reported a yet another incident of attack on a Masjid from Faridabad, Haryana. As per the Express report, two men allegedly threw a petrol bomb at a mosque in Faridabad's Kaili village. The incident took place in the early hours of 3rd August. According to the Faridabad police, a country-made pistol, five live cartridges, a country-made revolver, a sword, and 13 petrol-filled bottles were recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and remanded to the police custody for six days.

The Times of India on 7th August reported an unfortunate incident from Indore, M.P., where a group of right-wing activists threw a petrol bomb at a mosque. The crime was recorded on CCTVs installed in the area, which showed some men and a woman indulging in arson. Based on a complaint by Mohammad Shabbir, a resident of Jawahar Marg, the police registered a case against unknown people.

Web portal *outlookindia.com* on 7th August reported a case of vandalism of Muslim shops in





Web portal hindutvawatch.org on 7th August shared a video from Jalalabad, Shahjahanpur, U.P., in which Rashtriya Bajrang Dal leader and a lawyer in district civil court of Shahjahanpur, Arpit Gupta delivered a Hate Speech against the Muslims. He threatened a repeat of Babri Masjid if the judges don't rule in favour of Hindus in the

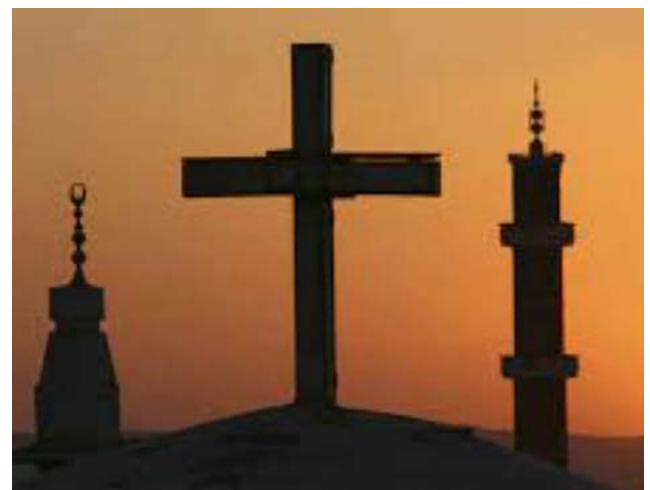
Haryana's Panipat city. According to the report, around 25-30 men, with their faces covered and holding swords and knives entered a local market in Panipat. A police official said, "armed men vandalised properties at three locations under the Chandni Bagh police station limits on Sunday and threatened the owners to vacate them. So far, the police have rounded up 15 people and their role is being ascertained. Police further said, "Many more will be rounded up based on CCTV footage and the videos shot by residents." The Haryana police have registered three FIRs at the Chandni Bagh police station under Sections 148, 149, 324, 427, and 506 of the Indian Penal Code.

The Hindustan Times on 7th August reported a protest being organised in Gurgaon against the Muslim community. Hundreds of people from villages in and around Gurugram gathered on 6th August in violation of the prohibitory orders in Gurugram's Sector 57, where a mosque was attacked and a deputy imam was murdered during the communal violence in August's beginning, the meeting called for an economic and social boycott of Muslims. These protesters also demanded that the accused that allegedly murdered the Imam be released from the police custody immediately and unconditionally. The district administration claimed that it did not give any permission for the gathering and had imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in and around Tigr and Gurugram's Sector 57.

Gyanvapi mosque dispute.

Web portal siasat.com on 7th August reported that some Hindu organisations and villagers have opposed the construction of a church in a village with no Christian community present in a village in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru district. The church was being constructed in Lokavalli village of Mudigere taluka and the development has already stirred a controversy. The locals and Hindu organisations have claimed that since there were no Christian families in the village, the church should not be constructed.

Web portal clarionindia.net reported on 7th August, about an Islamophobic incident from Chennai, Tamil Nadu where a police inspector attached to the Pulianthope Traffic Investigation Wing (TIW) in Tamil Nadu's capital city of





Chennai was suspended on Monday for allegedly sending an audio message on a WhatsApp group, which hurt religious sentiments. As per the report, the police officer in a WhatsApp audio said, “India is the land of Hindus, and Christians and Muslims are minorities here. The majority will rule the land. If they (Muslims and Christians) are not okay with that, they can go to Pakistan or other Muslim countries.”

On 7th August, Twitter shared a video from Uttarakhan’s Nainital city, where 8 members of Bajrang Dal brutally assaulted a Muslim boy Mohammad Shaji, for no apparent reason. He (Muslim boy) was later admitted to BD Pandey Hospital and is undergoing treatment for the injuries suffered.

Web portal *indianobserverpost.in* on 8th August reported a case of physical attack from Hodal, Haryana. The incident took place on 2nd August, when around 20-25 members of the Bajrang Dal attacked Abdul Razzaq, a 55-years-old worker at the Alwar Hotel. The assault left Razzaq with a broken hand and another person who was also present during at the time of the assault got severely injured. Later on members of the Jamiat Ulema’s local unit came forward to Abdul Razzaq’s aid and provided him necessary medical and legal assistance.

Twitter and other social media platforms reported on 8th August about an anti- Muslim poster that asked the residents of Ghaziabad. U.P., “do not buy anything from Bhaijan (i.e. Muslims), rather buy from a Brother (i.e. a Hindu)”. As per the report, the police have registered a case against 5-6 unknown people; however, no arrest has been made so far.

The Indian Express on 8th August reported an incident of stone pelting at a Muslim man’s house and a part of a *Mazaar* situated near the house being set ablaze. According to the Express report, The man, Iftikhar Ahmed, filed a complaint stating that the family had retired for night, around 11.30 pm they heard glass being shattered. “My son, Gulzar



Ahmed, and I found that a window near the stairs was broken and three men were standing near a bike (outside). Two (of them) were pelting stones at the house and the gate. Later, the men pelted stones at another man’s house, across the street from my house. When people started assembling, they quickly left on their bike. On the same day, part of a *mazaar* (shrine) in Sector 37, Gurugram was set on fire by unknown people in the early hours of the morning. The police registered two separate FIRs related to the incidents.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 8th August yet again a Hate Speech being delivered at an event organised in New Delhi. In the video, BJP leader and *Hindu United Front* head Jai Bhagwan Goyal delivered the speech demonising Muslims and called on Hindus to buy weapons.

Web portal *theprint.in* and *hindutvawatch.org* on 8th August reported about another Hate Speech delivered at Rahuri, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. In the video shared on twitter at a *Hindu Janakrosh Morcha* event organised by *Sakal Hindu Samaj*, BJP leader and legislator Nitish Rane delivered a Hate Speech against Muslims. He peddled various anti-Muslim conspiracy theories, targeted *Azaan*, and demonised Rohingya Muslim refugees.

On 8th August, a video was shared on Twitter in which Okendra Rana, a leader of *Shree Mahakal Brigade* of Bhiwani, Haryana, openly pointed a gun

at a truck driver on suspicion of carrying cows.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 8th August reported about a Hate Speech from Nani Daman, Daman & Diu delivered at an event organised by VHP. In a video shared on social media, right-wing hate monger Kajal Shingla once again peddled conspiracy theories to incite hate and violence against Muslims at a VHP-Bajrang Dal's *Akhand Bharat Sankalp Divas* event calling Muslims "insects".

On 9th August, a video surfaced on social media platforms, which showed that during a *Kanwar Yatra* in M.P.'s Khandwa district, a radical Hindutva leader, threatened the Muslim community of physical attack. The group was seen standing near a Masjid and giving the provocative speech. They further said, if any Jihadis come across we would cut them in pieces.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 9th August reported from Haridwar, Uttarakhand, that hate speeches were delivered by many right-wing Hindu priests at an event organised in support of the UCC. In the video, one of the speakers can be heard saying if a fistful people (referring to Muslims) can make India shake, think what can 85 % Hindus do to them.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 9th August reported a case of physical attack from Bundi, Rajasthan. In a video posted on Twitter, cow vigilantes assaulted a Muslim truck driver and damaged his truck for transporting cows, allegedly.

On 9th August, we portal *indiatoday.in* reported a case of desecration of a religious place from U.P.'s Aligarh. A group of miscreants allegedly vandalised a historical *dargah* and dome of a masjid in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district late on 8th August night. The incident happened at the historical *dargah* and mosque of Baba Bajrudiin Shah, located in Chharra area of the city. Soon after the incident came to light, hundreds of Muslims



gathered at the spot, demanding action against the miscreants responsible for the vandalism. According to a senior police officer, a case has been registered, and legal action is being taken against unknown miscreants.

Hindi daily *Amar Ujala* reported on 10th August, that a District Court in Indore, M.P. sentenced a Muslim Mohammad Sabir, aged 20 years to 20 years in jail on allegation of indulging in forced conversion and Love Jihad. The accused a resident of Indore has been sentenced under Section 3/5 of the M.P. Religious Freedom Act 2021. According to a report, when he found a minor girl alone at home, he raped and harassed her.

The Free Press Journal on 12th August reported an incident of harassment from M.P.'s Bhind District. A Dalit man was allegedly beaten up and forced to recite "Jai Shri Ram" and "Thakur Humare Baap Hain" (Thakurs are our boss) by a group of individuals belonging to the Thakur community in Bhind. The video is making rounds on the social media. An FIR has been registered in this case and police have detained 4 people allegedly involved in the case.

Web portal *Dalit Times* on 12th August reported a physical assault and instance of voicing cast-based slurs against a Dalit family from U.P.'s Sonbhadra district. The family was assaulted and attacked by upper caste Hindus with sticks for stopping them from urinating in front of a house. As per reports, the police is investigating the matter.

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The Free Press Journal on 12th August reported an incident of harassment from M.P.'s Bhind District. A Dalit man was allegedly beaten up and forced to recite "Jai Shri Ram" and "Thakur Humare Baap Hain" (Thakurs are our boss) by a group of individuals belonging to the Thakur community in Bhind. The video is making rounds on the social media. An FIR has been registered in this case and police have detained 4 people allegedly involved in the case.

On 13th August, *Times of India* reported that an Imam of a Masjid in Aligarh, U.P. was falsely detained by the police on fabricated allegation of indulging in forced conversion. He was arrested when a group of Bajrang Dal workers started a protest demanding his arrest. Following a thorough police investigation, no substantial evidence was found and he was released a day later by the Police.

The Free Press Journal and web portal *siasat.com* on 13th August reported that a former Bhopal Mayor and Vice President of Madhya Pradesh's BJP state unit, Alok Sharma, sparked a political controversy with his speech wherein he allegedly appealed to Muslim voters not to exercise their franchise if they do not vote for the saffron party, while addressing a convention of BJP workers at Jaora in Ratlam district of the state. He said, "I want to appeal to our Muslim brothers of Jaora that if you don't want to vote for the BJP, then don't. But, I request you to not go for voting at all in that case". This is a clear case of psychological intimidation of the minority community voters to vote for the BJP or else...

TV channel *Etvbharat* on

13th August reported a yet another tragic incident involving a 40 years old Muslim Aman Hifzur Rahman, who was beaten to death allegedly by 6 radically motivated Hindus on suspicion of cattle theft in Assam's Hojai district. The local police swiftly responded to the situation, and apprehended six individuals in connection with the incident, while an investigation continues to uncover the truth behind the disturbing occurrence. Cases have been registered against these individuals under Section 302 (murder) and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Police detained 6 people, Sanjay Das, Nikhil Das, Tulendra Das, Uttam Chakraborty, Jayanta Chakraborty, and Sandhu Mazumdar, in connection with the incident. Cases have been registered against these individuals under Section 302 (murder) and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

On 13th August, Suresh Chavhanke on his Twitter handle once again shared a hate filled post referring to a scheduled TV show on the recent violence in Nuh, Haryana. The headline of the proposed show says, "Is the National security threatened by Mewat" referring to the Muslim community.

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 13th August reported an incident of physical attack from Lalitpur, U.P., where a Dalit man Sujan Ahirwar





where Muslims are in a majority, to be dissolved and merged with other districts, so as to erase the Muslim majority character of the Nuh district and by merging it with other districts, making both their voice and vote weak. Police officials did not respond to the requests for comments on the nature of speeches and threats made at the event and any action if taken against

was thrashed in the middle of the road after he refused to give free chicken to the accused in the case. A video of the assault has been doing the rounds on social media. Following this, the police registered a case against the accused under relevant sections of the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Twitter handle *The Muslim* on 14th August, posted a video wherein a group of people could be seen physically beating a Muslim man Nabi Zaidi on a railway track in Hardoi, U.P. As per reports, relative of Nabi Zaidi who was travelling on a bike collided with Praveen's bike unintentionally, upon hearing about the incident Parveen's friends rushed to the spot and started beating Nabi. Clearly a case of assertion of Hindu superiority in a non-communal case.

Hindustan Times on 14th August reported a Mahapanchayat being organised by Bajrang Dal and VHP in Palwal Haryana. According to the newspaper, hundreds of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) members joined a Mahapanchayat in Palwal on Sunday and said they will go on a religious procession in a village in the Nuh district later this month, less than a fortnight after their previous attempt which led to communal clashes in the area before it spread to other districts in Haryana. Among the demands raised during fiery speeches were for "lessons to be taught", Hindu families to be armed, and the district of Nuh,

those delivering hate speeches.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 14th August reported a yet another case of Hate Speech delivered at an event in New Delhi. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) working president Alok Kumar while speaking at an event organised by *Vanvasi Raksha Parivar Foundation*, delivered a communal speech demonising Muslims and claimed mosques in Mathura and Varanasi would be converted into temples within the next ten years.

Web portal *journomirror.com* on 14th August reported a yet another incidence of discrimination and intimidation from Vasant Vihar, Thane, Maharashtra. As per details, a Muslim man-Mofeed Ala, who has been selling *Surma* (eye cosmetic) for the last one-decade was targeted by a fellow Hindu vendor for being a Muslim. According to the victim's account, the Hindu vendor started abusing him and forced him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. Police has filed a complaint against the assailant.

TV channel *Times Now* on 15th August reported a shocking incident of caste-based discrimination on the occasion of the Independence Day from M.P.'s Vidisha District. A Dalit Sarpanch (headman) of village Sironj, Vidisha, M.P. was allegedly not allowed to hoist the tricolour at a school. He alleged that the upper caste teacher of the school did not allow him to be part of the Independence Day



celebrations and also insulted him for being a Dalit. The local SDM taking cognisance of the matter directed the local educational authority to investigate the matter and take due action.

TV channel *India TV* and several Twitter handles on 16th August reported that a Muslim man was brutally thrashed by a radical mob at Mumbai's Bandra Terminus while chanting slogans of Jai Shri Ram, as a war cry. The video of the incident went viral on the social media. It is being claimed that the Muslim youth was thrashed for allegedly hanging out with a minor Hindu girl. After the video went viral, the Mumbai Police started identifying the culprits.



The Free Press Journal on 16th August reported an incident as per which a group of Bajrang Dal and VHP workers disrupted a *Tiranga* (tricolour) rally taken out by Muslims on the occasion of the Independence Day in M.P.'s Guna while chanting slogans of *Jai Shri Ram*. As a result of this a clash took place between the two groups. In response to the altercation, members of the Muslim community filed a complaint at the local police station. They presented a video as evidence of the incident, seeking action against the disruptors. The police have initiated a review of the matter based on the video footage provided as evidence.

Saaf Afreen's Twitter handle shared a video from Hisar, Haryana on 16th August in which a radical man could be seen setting fire to the poster of Father of the Indian Constitution Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, so far there is no report of the accused being identified or any action taken against him.

Twitter handle *The Muslim* shared a video on 16th August, Rajasthan's Jaipur city, which showed a group of radical Hindutva activists raising provocative anti-minority slogans, during a *Tiranga Yatra*. They said, if

you want to live in India then you have to say *Jai Shree Ram*.

The Tribune on 16th August reported about a yet another provocative rally from Haryana's Panipat city, where more than 250 people associated with the Bajrang Dal created ruckus in front of a Masjid during *Tiranga Yatra*. They allegedly entered the Masjid and raised hateful slogans. In a complaint to the DGP Haryana, SP Panipat, DC Panipat and other higher officials, a group of around 250 youths allegedly reached Sarai Mohalla and gathered in front of Jama Masjid there and raised slogans. Meanwhile, the police have started a probe into the matter.

Meer Faisal on his Twitter handle posted a video on 17th August, from Bihar's Patna in which Bajrang Dal workers were seen physically assaulting the driver and cleaner of a truck on allegations of carrying buffaloes. As per the video, the identity of both the victims was not revealed whether they are Muslims or not.

Web portal *thehindustangazette.com* on 17th August reported a *Tiranga* (tricolour) rally taken out in Jammu, at which Bajrang Dal members raised provocative slogans against Muslims. Slogans like, *Jab Mulle kate Jayenge*,



Ram Ram Chilayenge (When Muslims would be chopped-up, they would cry Ram Ram), were raised during the procession.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 17th August reported a Hate Speech delivered at an event in Sirsi, Karnataka. One of the speakers, *Hindu Jagaran Vedithe* (HJV) leader Jagadish Karanth delivered an extremely hateful speech against Muslims and gave an open call for violence against them. He said, “They [Muslims] are again demanding partition; these people should either be shot or chopped-up”.

Hindi daily *Dainik Bhaskar* on 17th August reported a case of economic boycott from Western U.P., where right-wing organisations began a new campaign titled “Mehendi Jihad” (Henna Jihad) on social media demanding that Hindu women should not get *henna* designed on their hands by Muslim vendors. As per the *Bhaskar*’s report, “Hindu sisters should avoid getting henna applied by Muslim youths on the festival of *Sawan* and *Teej* (Two Hindu festivals during which, women adorn themselves with new clothes, *henna* and jewellery before offering ritual Puja). Hindu girls should get henna applied by Hindu women only. Give

employment to Hindus and also take care of your safety. Instead of *Jihadis*, get *henna* applied by *Sanatanis*.”

Web portal *newslick.com* on 17th August reported about a murderous attack on a Dalit student and his sister in Nanguneri, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. A group of high school students broke into the Dalit student’s home and hacked him with a sickle. Notably, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin condemned the incident and, on 12th August, he spoke to the mother of the injured children. He said, “The prevalence of caste and communal sentiments among the youth is not good for the welfare of Tamil Nadu. It is a crucial problem that needs to be rectified immediately”.

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 17th August reported about a heinous crime against a minor Dalit girl from U.P.’s Jaunpur. As per reports, the U.P. Police arrested six men accused of molesting a Dalit minor girl in Jaunpur on 14th August and recording a video of the crime. The arrests came after a video showing the girl being harassed by a group of men in the Machhlisahar area went viral on social media. The victim’s mother filed an official complaint,



a case under Sections 147, 354 (molestation), 504 (criminal intimidation), 506 of the Indian Penal Code, section 3(2)(VA) of the SC/ST Act, and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act was registered against the accused.

On 17th August, web portal *altnews.com* reported a case of media manipulation and misinformation with an aim to create communal tensions by the ‘Sudarshan News’. A video of a store called Shama Biryani Dhaba went viral on social media with the claim that the eatery uses unhygienic water from the gutter to cook Biryani. Twitter user and Sudarshan news journalist Sagar Kumar, who

uses the social media platforms to share and amplify the communal misinformation on a regular basis, shared a video clip with a caption in Hindi that can be translated as: “Warning Abusive Content! Jihadis are not satisfied with “spit”. Now they put a pipe inside the gutter and the water from it is used to cook the biryani and clean the utensils. When caught, this shameless man tried to bribe these men with Rs 5000”.

On 18th August, a video was circulated on various social media platforms from Kurukshetra, Haryana, which showed members of Bajrang Dal protesting against the Muslim community residing in the city and demanded that Muslim tenants should be asked to vacate their houses and shops from the city immediately.

On 18th August, a video went viral on X showing a radical youth allegedly urinating at Talab Wali Masjid in Raisen, M.P. The incident recorded on CCTV showed accused Ashok Vishwakarma urinating at the main entrance gate of the Masjid after which people complained to the police about the incident. The police arrested the accused youth.





Wasim, was killed and his two associates were injured when a mob attacked them on the suspicion that they were illegally chopping wood in a forest in Rampur area of Bansur tehsil of Rajasthan's Alwar district. Those who allegedly attacked the three included forest wardens also. The Police have arrested some people in connection with the incident.

Web portal *thewire.in* on 19th August reported about a case of religious discrimination from Lunwa village, Mehsana District, M.P. A Muslim girl

student Arnaz Banu of 10th standard, who was also the first topper of the school in the state board exams for class 10th, arrived to participate at a function organised by her school to honour best performing students of Class 10 and Class 12 of the school on the Independence Day, she expected to be called first on stage to collect her prize. However, that was not to be. In what appears to be a case of deliberate discrimination based on religion, the management of the Shri KT Patel Smriti Vidyalaya refused to honour its star student.

Web portal *etvbharat.com* on 18th August reported an incident from Maharashtra's Jalgaon city, where some miscreants set a truck on fire on suspicion of it carrying cow meat. As per the report, these miscreants tried to kill the driver Sallu Khan and cleaner Man Singh. According to the Police, 18 people have been arrested till now and investigation is still going on.

The Hindustan Times on 19th August reported an incident of mob lynching from Rajasthan's Alwar city. A 27-years-old Muslim youth, identified as





However, Bipin Patel, the principal of the school trying to hide the discrimination and defending the management said, “Our school maintains a strict policy against any form of discrimination. Rest assured, the deserving student will receive her reward on 26th January function.

Hindi daily *Amar Ujala* reported on 19th August, that a District Court in Indore, M.P. sentenced a Muslim Mohammad Sabir, aged 20 years to 20 years in jail on allegation of indulging in forced

conversion and Love Jihad. The accused a resident of Indore has been sentenced under Section 3/5 of the M.P. Religious Freedom Act 2021. According to a report, when he found a minor girl alone at home, he raped and harassed her.

A video shared on X on 21st August showed some radical Hindu boys manhandling a Muslim boy and forcing him to chant ‘Jai Shri Ram’.

Web portal *siasat.com* on 21st August reported an incident of custodial death from Jharkhand’s

Girdih District. As per reports, a Dalit man Nago Pasi allegedly died in police custody in Girdih district of Jharkhand. The family of the deceased claimed that he died due to police beating, and are demanding action against the officers responsible for the crime. However, in its defence, the police said that during interrogation, Nago Pasi suffered a heart attack and was taken to Girdih Sadar Hospital, where he died.





Web portal *outlookindia.com* on 21st August reported that RSS, VHP, and Bajrang Dal people attacked Christian devotees during the Sunday prayers at GTB Nagar New Delhi. The mob later gathered in a large number outside the local police station. “They not only thrashed us but also tried ripping our clothes”, said one of the victims as she held her right hand, which was injured. According to Outlook India, the mob shouted “Jai Shree Ram,” while members of the Christian community sought refuge within the police station. An FIR has been lodged with the GTB Enclave police station.

Web portal *sabrangindia.in* on 21st August reported a case of Hate Speech from Karnataka’s Bagalkot. In a video, a right-wing leader can be seen making incendiary speech during a *Hindu Jagaran Vedithe* event; other speakers are also reported to have delivered Hate Speeches alluding to violence against the minorities. A speaker at the event of the RSS affiliated organisation called for what he claimed a return of the instances that happened in Gujarat in 2002.

On 21st August, YouTube channel lallanpost reported yet another case of Islamophobia. In a TV debate, hate monger Yati Narsinghanand was seen once again making incendiary remarks against Muslims. In his speech he said, “If the present situation continues, then in the year 2029, the Prime Minister of the country will be a Muslim”.

The Free Press Journal on 22nd August reported another incident of physical assault in the name of Love jihad from Ujjain, M.P. Two Muslim men Wasim and Zubair were allegedly thrashed by a mob in presence of cops over allegations of ‘love-jihad’. A video circulating on social media displayed the distressing scene of the two men allegedly being subjected to physical assault by radical mob.

Web portal *Sabrang India* on 22nd August reported another incident of mob attack from Ghatkopar, Mumbai, Maharashtra. In a shocking incident a Muslim pizza delivery boy was savagely assaulted by a group of far-right activists, raising concerns about the escalating tide of intolerance and bigotry. Allegedly, a group of men asked



Shahid to stop on the roadside ostensibly to ask for a light. As soon as Shahid stopped, the group of men attacked him calling ‘Aurangzeb ki aulaad’ after which they hit him from the back and ruthlessly assaulted him. According to his version the group tried to force him reciting the names of “some Hindu deities”, however he didn’t complied and they proceeded to beat him brutally with sticks and hands. The police have so far arrested 4 men in connection with the incident.

On 23rd August, a video appeared on X in which radical Hindus were seen dancing and making provocative slogans while playing DJ in front of a Masjid in Samastipur, Bihar. Upon hearing this, some local Muslim youth came to the spot to chase them away them so that an attack on Masjid should be avoided. As a result, a clash broke out between them. As per the tweet, at least 4 Muslims have been arrested by the police in connection with this incident.

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 23rd August reported a yet another case of mob lynching from Jharkhand’s Ramgarh city. A 45-year-old Muslim

man Shamshad Ansari was beaten to death by a group of locals in Jharkhand’s Ramgarh. The assault took place on Monday, following an alleged fraud of Rs 22,000 committed by the man.

Twitter and web portal *siasat.com* on 24th August reported that Suresh Chavhanke, the editor of Sudarshan News, also well known for his anti-Muslim mindset and delivering Hate Speeches against the community, posted a cartoon on X showing Muslims throwing stones at Chandrayaan 3, India’s third lunar exploration project by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The cartoon also included a display board in Hindi saying, “Chand ki Zameen waqf ki milkiyat hai,” meaning “The land on the Moon belongs to Waqf,” thus mocking the Waqf board and Muslims, both.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 25th August reported about a rally organised by Vishva Hindu Parishad in Siliguri, West Bengal. At the rally Hindutva activists, in a video shared on X, were seen raising hateful slogans like “*Desh ke Gaddaron ko Goli Maro Saalo ko.*”





(criminal act done by several persons) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and section 3-2(v) of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

On 28th August 2023, web portal *indiatoday.in* reported yet another caste based discrimination and physical assault against Dalits from Maharashtra's Ahmednagar District. Four Dalit men were hanged upside down from a tree and beaten with sticks over suspicions of stealing

The Hindustan Times on 26th August reported another incident of hate crime against Dalits from Rajasthan's Jaipur. A 15-years-old Dalit student died in Rajasthan's Kotputli town of Jaipur after two of his school teachers allegedly harassed him on the basis of caste, the police said. The victim's family alleged that the school was informed about the casteist remarks but refused to act. The two teachers – Vivek Yadav and Rajkumar Yadav – were booked under sections 302 (murder) and 34

a goat and some pigeons at Haregaon village in Ahmednagar district. A video of the incident went viral on social media, following which the police arrested one person in connection with the attack, while five others are absconding.

On 26th August, *Hindustan Times* reported yet another incident from Sagar District of M.P., where a 20-years-old Dalit boy, Nitin Ahirwar, was beaten to death on by the key accused identified as Vikram Singh, 28, and eight others after Ahirwar refused





a large number of this Hindu organisation's members gathered at the Collectorate and submitted a memorandum to the District Collector asking him to get the Imambara relocated. They were also seen giving hate speeches from the stage and talked about love jihad and land jihad.

Times of India on 28th August reported a yet another anti-Muslim poster from Haryana's Gurgaon. Posters were pasted on the walls of a few shops at

to withdraw a sexual harassment case lodged by his sister, against them. Following the incident, a police complaint was filed by the family members of the deceased against nine people.

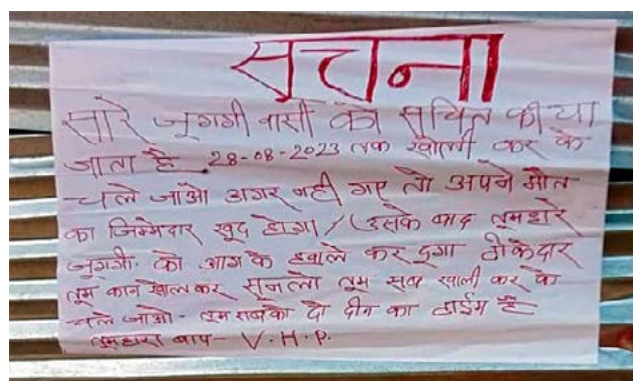
On 26th August, Hindi daily *Dainik Bhaskar* reported a case of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim protests from Dhar, M.P., where a group of Hindutva activists associated with right-wing organisations collectively organised a protest demanding an Imambara to be removed from PWD's land. After a protest, they gathered at an event, and later

a slum in Gurugram, asking Muslim to leave the place by Monday or face the consequences. As per reports, the poster surfaced in Sector 69, a day before VHP's call for a Shobha Yatra. The VHP, meanwhile, denied any connection with the posters. A complaint has been registered in connection with this case.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.in* on 28th August reported another incident of cow vigilantism from Bhatinda, Punjab. A truck driver was mercilessly thrashed by the members of a Gau Rakshak Dal on allegation of transporting cattle.

Web portal *hindustangazette.com* on 28th August, reported a case of a mazaar being demolished in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand by members of Devebhoomi Abhiyan, while raising objection able slogans like against the Muslim community.

Scroll.in on 29th August reported a yet another case of Islamophobia and hatred against the Muslim community from Gandhinagar, New Delhi. A government school teacher allegedly





made communal slurs targeting a group of Muslim students of her class. Hema Gulati of the Kailash Nagar Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Gandhinagar area made the offensive statements on 23rd August, while students of Class 9 were celebrating the success of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission. An FIR was registered against her after parents of the children filed a complaint with the police and the Directorate of Education. Gulati has been booked under Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 295A (outraging religious feelings) and 298 (uttering words with intent to wound the religious feelings) of the IPC.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.in* on 30th August, reported a yet another incident of anti-Muslim sentiments from Jind, Haryana. A video went viral on social media of a right-wing leader who can be heard justifying Junaid and Nasir's murder by the cow vigilantes group and also is seen threatening to kill "cow smugglers."

The Indian Express on 31st August reported an incident of physical attack against a Muslim cattle trader Akib Pathan Khan from Bharuch, Gujarat. Tension gripped Bharuch town after Muktanand Swami alias Bhavesh Patel (44), a



convict in the Ajmer Dargah blast case – who is out on bail since 2018 – clashed with two youth. According to the victims, Muktanand Swami asked him not to use that road again. "I replied that this is my routine route to reach the river bank". Patel continued arguing and asked me 'not to use the road and slapped me thrice and later attacked me with a spade lying nearby'. Later, a police constable came and took me to the police station and then to a hospital where I received four stitches on my head."