





Quarterly ReviewJanuary-March 2023

Cow Vigilantism Economic Boycott Hate Speech Restrained Violence Post Religious Processions

JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES

(A Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Initiative)



उत्तर प्रदेश: सुल्तानपुर में अतिक्रमण के नाम पर मुस्लिमों के दो घर और 11 दुकानों पर चला बुल्डोजर, सामान निकालने का भी नहीं मिला मौका

SHARE 03 F V D



Girls denied entry to Moradabad college for wearing burga ed on Jen 19, 2023/07/01 PM ST Professor says dress code for students has been implem who refuses to follow it will be barred from entering the MLA's statement sparks row

Bihar: Christian man beaten up by Bajrang Dal members over allegations of religious conversion, video goes viral | Watch

The Bajining Dal members can also be seen showing away the woman relative of the man who is pleading for merc





Muslim PG Student Thrashed in MP's Khandwa, Faces Sexual Assault Allegation:

Shabbaz's family claimed that the charges against him are false — and that he was hrashed for being a Muslim.



Gujarat Govt conducts demolition drive in book area of Kutch; Few Madrasas also demolished



Navi Mampai cop 'spits' on Dalit man, forces him to 'lick' shoes in police station; booked

The officer is said to have held a grudge against the Dalit man, who had complained to senior police officers about the hesitancy shown by officers of Kalamboli police station to register his complaint after he was duped in a cyber scam.





Some media reports claimed that the CCTV footage has captured the

accused who vandalised the crosses



'Allah Hu Akbar' slogan at terror attack mock drill upsets Muslim leaders; Lawyers submit objection

A group of lawyers has submitted a memorandum to the district police authorities on the i Superintendent of Police Ravindrasingh Pardeshi on Sunday sold all efforts would be taken to error is not repeated.

bertly Zeckhola Senas | Loc

- An gnd-turror mock drill in Maharoshira's Aurongobod has sporked controversy over-porticular sloganeering.
- SP Revindrosingh Pardishl said his department will "take ecessary steps to ensure such an error is not repeated.
- owyers have filed an bjection over the





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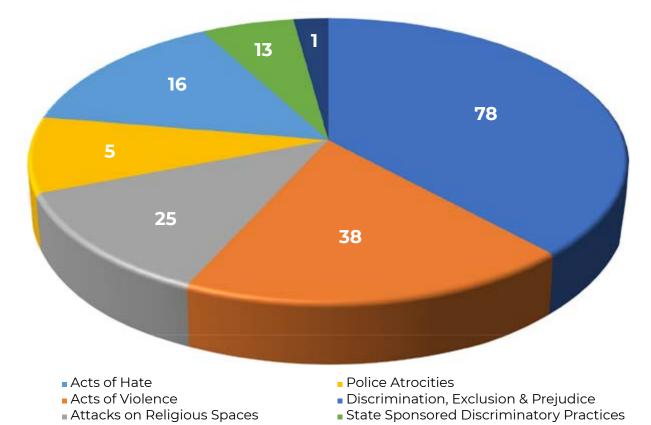


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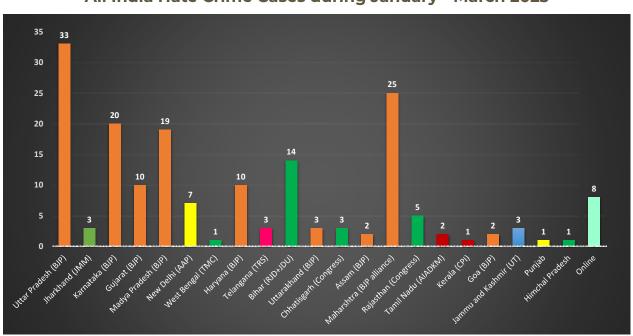


Hate Crime cases Reported in January - March 2023 **Total Cases: 176**



All India Hate Crime Cases during January - March 2023

■ Media Manipulation and Fact Distortion





Executive Summary

The first quarter of 2023 saw a total of 176 verified Hate Crime cases in India. In our quarterly in-depth analysis of mainstream activities against minorities in India, it becomes apparent that a well-coordinated program is being executed skillfully by players on the ground but orchestrated by senior representatives of the national organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh(RSS). The actors on the field attack Dalits, Adivasis and Christians, but special treatment appears reserved for the Muslim Community. This discrimination is conducted in multiple ways, including Dog Whistling, Hate Speech, Hate Crimes and blatant Islamophobic attacks. Another disturbing and increasingly alarming trend appears to be using satellite organisations to carry out these heinous crimes. Our research sadly concurs with the views of many Civil Rights organisations (like the CJP, HRW etc.) that the RSS has designated the tasks of these attacks to lesser well-known organisations like the Karni Sena, Vishwa Shriram Sena, Hindu Rashtra Sena, Hindu Janjagruti Samiti, Hindu Pratisthan, Janjati Suraksha Manch, Sakal Hindu Samaj, Gauraksha Samitis etc., Their role appears to be to deliver the hate tangibly on the ground against minorities to prove their worth to their masters and be promoted to the higher echelons of their organisations. Depressingly, the atrocities appear to be conducted with such vigour and venom that they even surpass the brief given to them. This is all in the name of Hindutva Nationalism and a token of their loyalty to their masters, further bolstering their ground support.



January Case Summary

The first month of 2023 saw 48 verified Hate Crime cases. On a personal note for the JEM, the new year started positively, with the leading Urdu newspaper *Akhbar-e Mashriq* carrying a favourable report on JEM activities, listing its painstaking collection, collation and verification of data relating to hate crimes in the country. The columnist, Azeem Akhtar, in his column on 1st January, appreciated the efforts by JEM and JUH to bring into the public domain the crucial bit of information relating to the minorities and the Muslim community in India.

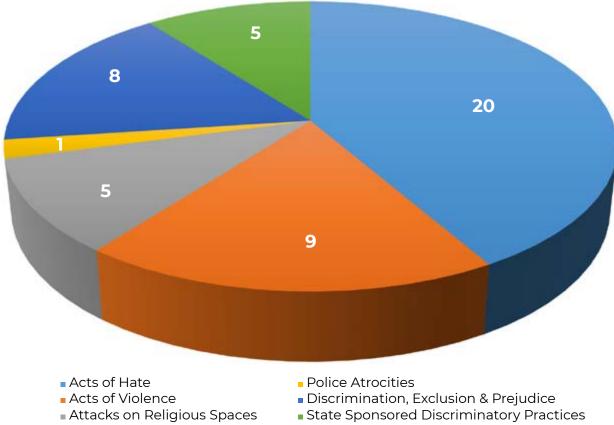
Unfortunately, this positivity was short-lived when figures for Muslim Girls attending government schools in the state of Karnataka were published. This data, revealed by the *Indian Express* newspaper, showed an alarming decline of Muslim Girls enrolling in Class XI (also known as Pre-University College or PUC in Karnataka). The decline of

A report in January revealed the decline in Muslim girl students' numbers at various government schools and colleges in the state of Karnataka





48 Hate Crime cases reported during January 2023



over fifty percent between 2021 and 2022 can be mainly attributed to the Hijab Ban imposed in the state for Muslim girls attending government schools. The numbers are stark, from 388 Muslim student applications in the 2021-2022 academic years to a measly 186 in 2022-23. These numbers, when genderspecific, are further depressing as, according to the research, only 91 Muslim girls enrolled in government colleges this academic year, compared to 178 in the 2021-22 academic year.

The plight of India's 28 Million Christians was the subject matter in UKs *The Spectator* magazine. The article focussed on a report by United Christian Front (UCF), a leading Christian organisation in India. In highlighting the record number of violent attacks (550) on the community in 2022, *The Spectator*



In a scathing report on the current state of affairs. particularly against the minorities in India. the British magazine The Spectator quoted a report by United Christian Front (UCF), a leading Christian organisation in **India**



asked if the fundamental survival of the Christian faith was at stake.

Spectator's report said India is ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and headed by Narendra Modi, the country's hugely popular prime minister, who was re-elected in 2019. Under Modi's tenure, few would doubt that India doesn't deserve a seat at the global top table. The country's economy recently overtook the United Kingdom to become the fifth

largest on the planet. For India's Christians, the future has never been so uncertain. The report commented that to consolidate its power domestically, the BJP has implemented a series of divisive Hindu nationalist policies. They have aimed to appeal to the country's majority Hindu electorate at the expense of its minorities. This has included stoking hatred against India's Christians. The BJP has proposed state benefits be withdrawn from Christians and that believers should be banned from holding political office in the country. The BJP's rhetoric has emboldened India's powerful right-wing Hindu groups, like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which has around six million members. These groups increasingly lead violent mob attacks against Christians, their churches and pastors.

Anti-conversion laws were under the spotlight again in January. The stimulus for these laws was the unfounded and fundamentally scaremongering claims made by the 'Love Jihad' brigade. Despite no shred of evidence, anecdotal or actual, courts have in the past pandered to the allegations, and it was refreshing to see





some recent pushback. In an interview to web portal *livelaw.in*, Justice Deepak Gupto, a former chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, stated that Anticonversion laws are coming for political reasons rather than actual reasons.

January bought the spotlight on the activities of the right-wing Hindu organisation Janjati Suraksha Manch, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, led by a former legislator from the Bharatiya Janata Party, in Chhattisgarh state, against the adivasis (tribals).

A year-long mobilisation by the Janjati Suraksha Manch, preceded the worst-ever wave of violence against Christian Adivasis in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region. With a 30.6% Adivasi population, Chhattisgarh has long seen conflict over religion. Christian missions came to the region during colonial times. As they began to attract followers among Adivasi communities, which lived outside the Hindu caste hierarchy, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh sought to counter them by establishing the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram in north Chhattisgarh in 1952. The organisation introduced "ghar wapsi", or homecoming ceremonies, to reconvert Christian Adivasis to Hinduism.

While Hindutva groups have sought to subsume Adivasis in the Hindu fold, many Adivasi communities assert the Former chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court said Anticonversion laws are coming for political reasons rather than actual reasons



A year-long mobilisation by the Janjati Suraksha Manch, preceded the worst ever wave of violence against Christian Adivasis in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region



distinctiveness of their traditional, animist faith. In the villages of Bastar, tensions over religious conversions have centred around fears of loss of Adivasi identity. But the Janjati Suraksha Manch has attempted to cast the conflict

in religious terms by labelling Christianity and Islam as threats to Adivasis.

Hate Crime cases reported in January 2023

TV news channel *Times Now* on 1st January broadcasted news that there are plans afoot to rename the historic city of Ahmednagar to Ahilyadevi Nagar. It further ran a segment highlighting the life and contribution of Ahilyabai Holkar's life and contribution to India.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 2nd January reported that in the Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, hundreds of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) members marched on streets wearing RSS uniforms and holding canes and raising provocative slogans against minorities.

The Siasat Daily on 3rd January reported that in Shastri Nagar, Jaipur, Bajrang Dal activists distributed Trishuls (tridents) to youngsters under the pretext of 'protecting the Hindu Dharma'. News portal *journomirror.com* on 3rd January reported that in Sultanpur, U.P., Muslim houses and shops were bulldozed by the authorities allegedly on account of illegal encroachment. Web portal *indiatoday.in*





on 3rd January reported that in Mangaluru, Karanataka, MP Naleen Kateel (Nalin Kumar Niranjan Shetty) while addressing BJP functionaries at a political function, urged them to focus more on highlighting 'Love Jihad' cases, and not on better roads and sewage problems of the constituency. *The Indian Express* on 3rd January reported that in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh a local Church was attacked, after a Police FIR was filed, five people including a local BJP leader were arrested.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 6th January reported that at Ranapur-Madhya Pradesh, anti-Muslim and anti-Christian hate-mongering slogans were raised and speeches made against the two communities at an event entitled 'Shaurya Path Sanchalan' jointly

organised by the VHP and Bajrang Dal. Web portal *dalittimes.com* on 6th January reported that in Kanpur, U.P., a local land mafia associate Santosh Rajput allegedly demolished homes of Dalits without any apparent reason or giving any advance notice. Web portal *applive.com* on 6th January reported that in Bengaluru, Karnataka, a Dalit woman was dragged on the road and assaulted for entering a Hindu temple.

The *Hindustan Times* of 7th January reported that in Mahim, Mumbai in a case of vandalism, unknown vandals desecrated crosses and graves at the St. Michael's Church and a nearby cemetery. Web portal *indiatoday.in* of 7th January reported that in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka, a Muslim man Hafeed was beaten up by a group of individuals for talking to a girl of different faith.

Bajrang Dal activists distributed Trishuls (tridents) to youngsters under the pretext of 'protecting the Hindu Dharma'



In Mumbai, unknown vandals desecrated crosses and graves at the St. Michael's Church and a nearby cemetery



Several Twitter posts and *hindutvawatch.org* on 9th January reported that in Palanpur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, a Hindu extremist group called for violence at a massive public rally amid police presence.

TV news channel *Times Now* on 10th January reported that in Belgavi, Karnataka, a former BJP MLA raised objection to a house being converted into a mosque, which was donated as Waqf property by the owners.

News portal *thewire.in* of 11th January reported that during an interview with *Organiser* magazine – a RSS mouthpiece, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat claimed that the Hindu society is at war, and it is natural for people to be aggressive, while commenting on the current political scenario of India.

The Indian Express of 11th January reported that in Kohzhikode, Kerala, the state government banned an arts group performing at a school event for alllegedly furthering Islamophobic ideas. News portal *altnews.org* of 11th January reported that TV channel Sudarshan News's anchor Suresh Chavanke, yet against spread hatred against Muslims by twisting and presenting distorted facts about a recent murder case of a Police ASI in Delhi. *The Indian Express* of 11th January reported from Shivamoga, Karnataka that a day after Bajrang Dal workers attacked and harassed a Muslim girl, Bajrang Dal activists made this a communal issue as a result of which tension between two communities escalated in the area, as per the Police version.

The Siasat Daily of 12th January reported that at a public rally in Gadarpur, Uttarakhand the controversial Hindu leader Praveen Togadia claimed that





once the BJP is in absolute power in India, we will rewrite the Constitution ensuring that there will be no place for Muslims in the new Bharat Rashtra.

News portal *sabrangndia.in* and several posts on Twitter of 13th January reported that in Brahampuri, a locality of North-East Delhi, provocative posters pasted on the localities' walls were also widely shared on social media calling on Hindu landlords to not sell or rent any property to Muslims. *The Indian Express* of 14th January reported that in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand a Dalit man was beaten up for entering a Hindu temple, after reporting the case to the Police 5 miscreants were apprehended.

TV news channel *Zee News* on 14th January reported from Moradabad, U.P., a Muslim trader, while travelling on Delhi-Moradabad express train was brutally beaten and stripped naked for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' by some fellow passengers.

The Hindu newspaper reported on 15th January that after the Hindu-Muslim row over holding *Namaaz* at open spaces in Gurugram, Haryana, a fresh controversy over Eidgah land, has started, as certain anti-social elements vandalised the local Eidgah in Gurugram. Maulana Saleem Qasmi, president of Gurugram chapter of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has asked for legal action to be taken against those who had vandalised the site.

In Uttarakashi-Uttarakhand, a Dalit man was beaten up for entering a Hindu temple, by activists of rightwing Hindu organisations



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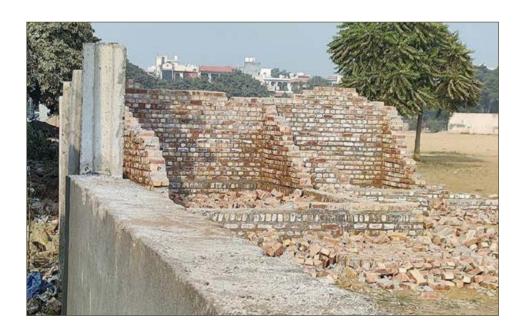
News portal *livehindustan.com* of 15th January reported that the historic Saidabad Shahi Masjid in Handia, Allahabad, which was built during the period of Shershah Suri has now been bulldozed in the presence of PWD officials on the pretext of widening the GT Road. Newsportal *indiapost.com* of 15th January reported that Gudiya, a resident of Ayodhya, U.P., alleged that her husband Kafeel was taken away by two civil clothed policemen and later she received the news of his death on phone from the police station, she alleged foul play in the matter.

TV news channel *Times Now* on 16th January reported that in Virajpeth, Bengaluru, Karnataka, alleged Bajrang Dal activists barged into the home of a Christian pastor and assaulted the family.

Newsportal *theprint.in* of 17th January reported that in Karimganj, Assam, authorities in the BJP-ruled state demolished hundreds of homes, mostly belonging to Muslims, over "illegal encroachments" allegations. News portal *indiatoday.com* on 17th January reported that at MS University, Vadodara, Gujarat, the university authorities have barred religious prayers at university premises, after a video of a girl offering *Namaaz* at the campus sparked a row.

Newsportal *livehindustan.com* on 18th January reported that in Behat, Saharanpur, U.P., Bajrang Dal activists took out a procession in the city and handed a memorandum to the SDM asking "to ban those organisation which are involved in killings and attacks on Bajrang Dal activists."





CJP's website *cjp.org.in* on 18th January reported that a Hindu leader Shankar Gaikar delivered an anti-Muslim hate speech at the Shaurya Path Sanchalan event at Boisar, Thane, Mahrashtra. *The Siasat Daily* on 18th January reported that in Kutch, Gujarat six Madarassas and 36 commercial establishments were demolished under the pretext of them being unauthorised constructions. Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 19th January reported that in Shivamoga, Karnataka, Bajrang Dal activists allegedly raised slogans outside a mosque without any provocation.

Newsportal *theprint.in* on 19th January reported that in Khandwa, M.P. a Muslim PG student was thrashed by iscreants; according to the police the victime also faces prior sexual assault allegations. *The Hindustan Times* on 19th January reported that at Hindu College, Moradabad, U.P., girl students were denied entry to the college on grounds of wearing a burqa.

Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 20th January reported that in Banda, U.P., the local Bajrang Dal activists vowed to take "An eye for an eye", as one of its member was killed in Assam violence last month, one local leader said, "these children of Babur must be taught their place in India".

News portal *indiatoday.in* on 21st January reported that in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, seven mosques were fined for violating permissible sound levels, while using the loudspeakers for delivering the Azaan.

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under the
relevant SC/ST
Laws



The Indian Express on 22nd January reported that in Navi Mumbai-Maharashtra, a cop 'spitted' on a Dalit man and forced him to 'lick' his shoes at a local police station, later the cop was booked by his colleagues under the relevant SC/ST Law.

TV news channel *Zee News* on 23rd January reported that in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, at a terror attack mock drill by the local police authorities, slogans like, 'Allah Hu Akbar' were raised to identify the terrorists; which unsettled the local Muslims and they filed a case in the local courts against the police practice. Another TV news channel *India News* on 23rd January reported that in Vaishali, Bihar, Bajrang Dal members beat up a Christian man over allegations of religious conversions.

Newsportal *sabrangindia.com* on 24th January reported that in Mandsaur, M.P., a rally taken out by right-wing Hindu organisations marched through Muslim localities raising provocative and communal slogans, trying to create a fear psychosis amongst the Muslim residents of the area. TV news channel *Times Now* on 24th January reported that in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka, a Muslim shopkeeper running a shop outside Panchalingeshwara Temple was forced to shutdown and shift his shop down by right-wing Hindu elements, as it was located near a Hindu temple. News portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 24th January reported that in Bapunagar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) distributed Trishuls (tridents) amongst 1100 people and called for transforming India into a Hindu Rashtra and made provocative statements against the Muslim community.





News channel *news* 360 reported on 26th January that in Madhya Pradesh, Hindu extremists committed blasphemy against Prophet Mohammad, while protesting against a Bollywood movie 'Pathan' starring a Muslim hero Shahrukh Khan.

Web portal *scroll.in* on 25th January reported that the Indian media was replete with reports of a judgment by an Additional Sessions Court of Gujarat, which acquitted the 22 men, accused and facing trial in the case of killing 17 Muslim men and women during the Gujarat pogrom of 2002, citing lack of evidence against the accused. On their release these people were facilitated by the right-wing Hindu organisations, as saviours of the Hindu religion.

Web portals *thewire.in* and *frontline.in* reported that on 28th January, in Mewat, Haryana, a man was killed by cow vigilantes, but the cops claimed that he died in a road accident. Earlier in the day a video of three Muslim youths alleged being harassed, by Bajrang Dal activists, near Nuh in Haryana, surfaced on social media. Two days later, one of the three Muslim youth –Waris Khan died due to internal injuries suffered during the fracas.

Similarly, just two days after, on 27th *January* the Muslim community was rattled by yet another judicial order. This time it came from Additional Sessions Judge S.B. Salunkhe,

Indian media was replete with reports of acquittal of 22 men, accused and facing trial in the 2002 case of killing 17 Muslim men and women during the Gujarat pogrom, based on lack of evidence against the accused



The IT department of **Maharashtra** state government fired a Dalit **Inspector** without any valid charge, allegedly the other employees of the department were angry with him for putting-up a picture of Dr BR Ambedkar. a Dalit icon, in his office



hearing the case filed after mob lynching of Mohsin Shaikh in Pune in June 2014. The judge said that the evidence brought on record was not strong enough to convict Desai and other co-accused and the prosecution had failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubts.

Web portal *dalittimes.in* of 28th January reported a yet another unique case, according to which the CGST department of Mumbai fired a Dalit Inspector without any advance notice, allegedly the other employees of the department were angry with the Dalit Inspector for putting-up a picture of Dr BR

Ambedkar, a Dalit icon, in his office.

News portal *livehindustan.com* reported on 29th January that in Virpur, Begusarai, Bihar, a Masjid was vandalised by some anti-social elements and the crowd accompanying them also raised objectionable slogans against the Muslim community. An incident reported from Gopalgunj, Bihar on 29th January shows how a trivial issue is turned into a communal one by the right-wing elements, now a day. According to reports a Muslim youth was killed during a cricket match over an umpiring decision by a Muslim player. The local Hindu players pelted stones on the Muslim players and blamed them for trying to vitiate the communal atmosphere of the city on the auspicious occasion of Saraswati Puja, a Hindu festival.





The UrduTimes of 30th January reported that the suspended BJP MLA T Raja, yet again made objectionable remarks at a public rally and said "ab gala katne wale hindu ki zarurat hai" (Now we need Hindus who can cut throats), however no action was taken against the former legislator for the hate speech.

In Salem-Tamil Nadu, a DMK leader was booked under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act-1989, for allegedly abusing and attacking a Dalit boy for entering a Hindu temple

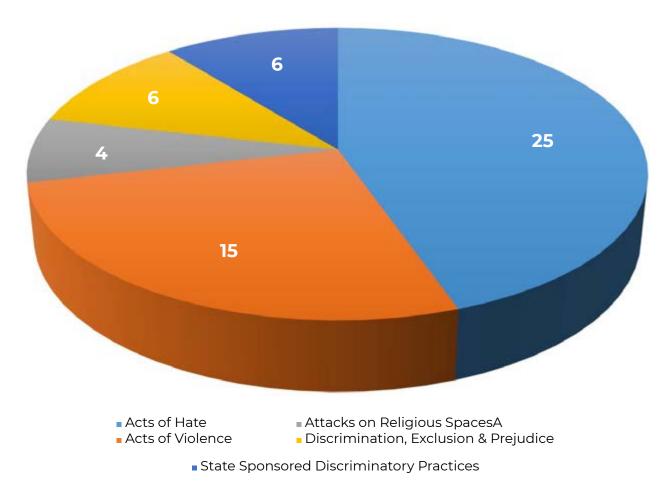
In yet another outcry against 'Love Jihad' as per a report published in the *scroll.in* on 30th January, a rally was taken out in Dadar, Mumbai seeking a law against 'Love Jihad' and religious conversions.

The vigilante action against beef traders continues unabated, in the latest incident as reported by the newspaper *The Hindu* on 30th January in Mudigere, Karnataka, Bajrang Dal activists assaulted a Muslim youth on charges of selling beef in Mudigere. Though the local Police registered a case against the attackers, they also took Gaiur Rahman into custody on the charge of selling beef.

News portal *thequint.com* of 30th January reported that in Salem, Tamil Nadu a DMK leader was booked under Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act-1989, for allegedly abusing and attacking a Dalit boy for entering a Hindu temple.



56 Hate Crime cases reported during February 2023



February Case Summary

The second month of 2023 saw 56 verified Hate Crime cases. Despite being the month that hosts Valentine's Day, love was unfortunately in short supply in February. Hate speeches dominated the month. This completely contradicted the Supreme Court's attempts to muzzle them. Amongst the culprits were Yati Narsingha Nand and Baba Ramdev, who advocated taking up arms by Hindus and annihilating Muslims from India.

A speech that requires special mention due to its abuse and potentially devastating consequences was delivered by Pradeep Khakkar on 4th February at Delhi's Jantar





Mantar, asking for Muslims' genocide in the country. The following day further genocidal calls were made at two separate programmes hosted again at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The first programme 'Sanatan Dharma Sansad' was organised in support of Dhirendra Shastri, a Hindu religious leader of Bageshwar Dham. The second titled the 'Hindu Aakrosh Demonstration' was organised in support of Sudarshan News editor Suresh Chavhanke. Audience numbers were bolstered by inviting students from the 'Gurukuls' who provided a raucous and passionate crowd. In an atmosphere of hatred, calls for massacring minorities were made, all in the guise of 'Dharma Sansad' (Religious Parliament). According to reports, many religious leaders, sadhus, and members of Hindutva organisations demanded Z+ security for Dhirendra Shastri. They also

demanded that the *Ramcharitmanas* be declared the national book and the cow be declared the national animal of the 'Hindu nation,' i.e. India. Mahamandaleshwar Hari Singh, who spoke in support of Dhirendra Shastri, boasted that at 83 years of age, he he has so far killed 80 people. He also said that he would die only after killing 100 people. Singh brazenly urged the crowd to kill Muslims and Christians and keep weapons in their homes.

Corporate Bigotry, hatred and Islamophobia were exposed this month when a recruiter at Infosys unintentionally boasted on Twitter how he discriminated against a Muslim candidate and rejected him outright during an interview. There were angry posts on Twitter against the individual and the company, like: It's time to inform the world about discrimination in Indian corporate workplaces.

Former central minister P.
Chidambaram accused the Narendra Modi government of "displaying its anti-minority policy" as a badge of honour



Supreme Court
in February
observed:
"abjuring hate
speech is a
fundamental
requisite
for the
maintenance
of communal
harmony"



Apart from political and corporate hatred, the cinema world too decided to flex its anti-minority muscles. In a video interview, Singer Anup Jalota, famous for his unique style of singing ghazals and Hindu religious songs, was reported as saying that India should be announced as a Hindu nation as there is no such nation in the world. "Like the changes in Kashmir, it will not make any difference to the people. Only the announcement should be made", he said.

The German state-owned public broadcaster *Deutsche Welle* further highlighted music as a hatred medium. In an intriguing documentary broadcasted on their YouTube channel, they exposed Hate Mongering via Hindi Pop songs. The documentary, available in German and English, comments on songs by independent Hindu singers themed around the Hindu-Muslim conflict. In April 2022, a rally in the Indian town of Karauli, Rajasthan, turned violent when anti-Muslim songs were played during Hindu New Year celebrations. The town witnessed the worst communal violence since independence, reported the Indian news publication Scroll. One of the songs played had lyrics in Hindi: "The day Hindus wake up, those who wear skull caps will bow down and say victory to lord Ram. The day our blood boils, we will show you your place. We will not speak; only our swords will." The song is an example of a musical genre under the banner "Hindutva Pop." These songs often contain violent lyrics with Auto-Tuned vocals set to catchy upbeat rhythms. As minority communities in India witness a wave of religious hate crimes under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, Hindutva pop can be used to inflame the tension. Both of these songs are available on multiple channels on YouTube and have garnered hundreds of thousands of views. An analysis by the Tow Centre spanned 100 songs across 40 channels on YouTube that were manually analysed to





check for hateful content. Twenty-six of the forty channels in the dataset participate in the YouTube Partner Programme, which provides access to monetisation features, allowing channels to place ads on their videos. Ad revenue is split between YouTube and the video publisher; popularity incentivises both.

The American Newspaper, *Wall Street Journal*, reported another alarming piece of news. They discovered that guns are being offered for sale on Facebook groups devoted to religious extremists in India. At first, Facebook rejected complaints about the posts violating the company's rules, then later took them down as

pointing triangle identified users who have offered for sale on the platform arms, including handguns, rifles, shotguns and bullets to members of a forum devoted to an extremist Hindu organisation with a history of violence in India. Eight posts, some of which had been up since April 2022, caught the eye of Raqib Hameed Naik, the founder of a group that monitors attacks against religious minorities in India. He began reporting them to Meta Platforms Inc., identifying META's 0.77% increase in green up pointing triangle in late January 2023 as contradicting the company's publicly stated policy that prohibits private individuals from buying or selling firearms or ammunition on Facebook platforms.

To confirm hate crimes against Muslims were not a figment of the communities imagination, a *Indian Express* report highlighted the fact that over 71% of total complaints and

WSJ in a report revealed that guns are being offered for sale on Facebook by groups devoted to religious extremists in India



A Deutsche Welle (DW), documentary showed alleged hatemongering through 'Hindutva pop' songs by rightwing activists



petitions received by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in the past five years were related to the Muslim community. The state of Uttar Pradesh submitted the highest number of complaints over Five years. According to the Ministry of Minority Affairs' data, of the total 10,562 complaints received by the commission related to all the minority communities, namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains and Buddhists between 2017-18 and 2022-23 (till 31st January 2023), 7,508 pertain to the Muslim community alone. This is 71 per cent of the complaints received by the minorities' panel from all the minority communities.

To end the month positively, seeing the Supreme Court declare that "abjuring hate speech is a fundamental requisite for maintaining communal harmony" in the country was refreshing. Justice K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna made an observation asking to list all the applications against hate speech and observed that till that time, there is a common enemy, i.e., hate. "Remove hate from the mind and see the difference" Justice Joseph further reminded him that the Court should exercise caution as there is no definition of hate speech. It has to rely on allied provisions in the constitution.

Hate Crime cases reported in February 2023

On 1st February the *JUH* filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking it to get transferred all pleas against anti-conversion laws filed in 6 different High Courts to the Supreme Court and bunch them together. The month also saw the Japanese government's initiative to create a new state agency to counter fake news, a step





that should be copied by India also.

News portal *thenewsminute.com* reported on 2nd February that a Dalit youth was attacked by a mob of Shiva devotees in Telangana's Vikarabad district. While the police claimed the incident was due to personal enmity, activists said that Dalits in Devanoor village in Vikarabad had been facing discrimination for the past ten years. *The Hindustan Times* on 2nd February reported that in Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal's Islam Nagar village's name was changed to Jagdishpur. According to many historical accounts, Jagdishpur was named Islam Nagar

308 years ago and is a famous tourist attraction due to its fort. *The Tribune* on 2nd February reported that in Malerkotla, Punjab, the Police nabbed a farmer accused of thrashing a Dalit child for no apparent reason.

Web portal *cjp.org.in* reported on 3rd February that in Barmer, Rajasthan, Baba Ramdev again delivered a hate speech against Muslims by saying that, ask a Muslim what your religion says, they will say that read *Namaaz* five times daily and then do whatever comes to your mind. Whether you kidnap a Hindu girl, or commit whatever sin you want to commit, it is allowed. They (Muslims) think that the meaning of Islam is only *Namaaz*. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 3rd February reported that in an online hate-filled interview, Hindu far-right leader Yati Narsinghanand has called for wiping out

71 per cent of total complaints and petitions received by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in the past five years were related to the Muslim community alone





Controversial
Hindu priest
Mahamandleshwar
Swami Bhakt
Hari Singh in
a hate speech
in New Delhi
urged Hindus
to eradicate
Muslims and
Christians from

Islam from the face of the earth to establish peace. Web portal *indiatomorrow.com* on 3rd February reported that in Lucknow, U.P., Kashmiri Vendors cried 'We Are Also Indians' after unidentified car-borne miscreants ransacked the kiosks of Kashmiri dry fruit vendors.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 5th February reported that at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, a controversial Hindu priest Mahamandleshwar Swami Bhakt Hari Singh delivered

a hate speech at an event organised in support of Bageshwar Dham. Singh called on Hindus to eradicate Muslims and Christians from India. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 5th February reported that in Jaipur far-right Hindu groups including Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad distributed Trishuls (tridents) amongst 800 people and administered an Oath to them to turn India into a Hindu Rashtra.

Siasat.com and Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 6th February reported that the Delhi Police has sent notice to Molitics, a media company for covering Hindutva hate speeches delivered at Jantar Mantar, recently. Allegedly Mahamandleshwar Swami Bhakt Hari Singh in hate speeches delivered at Janta Mantar had urged Hindus to keep weapons at home as knives alone will not work. He urged the Hindus to keep weapons in one hand and scriptures in the other. TV news channel *Times Now* on 6th February reported that in *Khandwa*, *M.P.*, unknown miscreants attacked a Muslim cleric and another person named Mohammed Talha. Web portal *sabrangindia.com* on





6th February reported that at a public rally held at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar, a popular spot for staging rallies and demonstrations, a BJP leader Suraj Pal Amu called for violent action against the minorities if any legal or police action is taken against the controversial TV news anchor and head of Sudarshan News channel, Suresh Chavhanke. Web portal *theprint.in* on 6th February reported

that in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh, the local Police had arrested 120 people in cow smuggling cases during 2022; that is from one district of the state only. Out of the 120 accused, 110 people have been arrested as preventive action and 10 have been accused of cow slaughter.

Web portal hindutvawatch.org on 7th February reported that in Murragaon, Kanker District, Chhattisgarh, a Hindu right-wing mob flogged members of the Christian community over religious conversion allegations. They stopped Sunday prayers at a church and beat the congregants with sticks. etvbharat.com on 7th February reported that in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, a protest march was held against 'Halal Certificate' for food items, in an effort to create another controversy about the Halal certification and stigmatise the Halal food. Web portal hindutvawatch.org on 7th February reported that in Bhopal, M.P., members of far-right Hindu groups forced their entry into a house and stopped Christians from holding a prayer session and accused them of religious conversions. A BJP leader called for violent action against the minorities if any legal or police action is taken against the controversial TV news anchor and head of Sudarshan News, Suresh Chavhanke





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Web portal *clarionindia.net* on 7th February reported that in Sivasagar district of Assam, a group of people assaulted a man identified as Naju Ali on the suspicion of stealing a cow in Bamunpukhuri tea garden area. Web portal *freepressjournal.in* on 7th February reported that in Koppal district of Karnataka, a Dalit woman, whose cow had strayed into an upper caste Hindu farmer's land was assaulted, beaten and hurled with casteist slurs by the upper caste Hindu land owner, he tied the woman in front of his house and then assaulted her.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 9th February reported that in Pataudi, Haryana, Bajrang Dal members led by Monu Manesar - a cow vigilante, used guns during a fight between two groups belonging to different communities. Mohsin Khan, 20, a local who was passing through the area, sustained a gunshot wound in stomach, in this show of strength.

Web portal *thenewsminute.com* on 11th February reported that in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, a Dalit family was denied use of road to the crematorium. Locals allege that the discriminatory act of blocking access to main roads for funerals of Dalits has been happening for decades under the Mannarkaravai panchayat in the district.

Web portal *hindutawatch.org* on 12th February reported that in Kanpur, U.P., farright groups Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal distributed Trishuls (tridents)





and administered an oath to the participants to protect the Hindu religion and Bharat Rashtra.

Web portal *thequint.com* on 13th February reported that in Dubey Colony, Khandwa, M.P., a Hindu mob to show the Hindu strength entered a Muslim's home and installed a Hindu idol inside his house, resultant to which the two communities pelted stones on each other and indulged in vandalism. *The Indian Express* on 13th February reported that in Andheri (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra, right-wing Hindu organisation Sakal Hindu Samaj held a protest against allotting

a plot of land for a Muslim cemetery. The protesters claimed that the vacant land parcel was originally reserved for setting up a hospital and during the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government the land use was changed. TV news channel *NDTV* on 13th February reported that at a village in Narmadapuram district of M.P., a Church was torched down and unknown miscreants painted letter 'Ram' on the walls of the said church. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 13th February that in Neemuch, M.P., far-right Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal members marched on the streets wearing RSS uniforms and holding canes and weapons in a bid to demonstrate their power.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 14th February reported that in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Bajrang Dal national convener Neeraj Doneria peddled anti-Muslim conspiracy theory and

Narmadapuram district of M.P., saw a church being torched down by miscreants, who also painted letter 'Ram' in Hindi on the walls of the said church



At public speeches in Pune and Nandurbar, Maharashtra. controversial Hindu religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj and controversial TV presenter Suresh Chavhanke spewed hate against **Muslims**



indulged in hate speech at a press conference. Web portal *hatedetectors.com* on 14th February reported that in Badlapur, U.P., Hindutva groups complained against a Christian event, accusing a pastor and official of St Xaviers School of allegedly indulging in converting people to Christianity. TV news channel *news24* reported on 14th February that in a Twitter post Bhajan singer Anoop Jalota put forth the demand that "India should be made a Hindu nation because there are more Hindus here."

Web portal *siasat.com* on 15th February reported that in Pune and Nandurbar, Maharashtra, controversial Hindu religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj and controversial TV presenter Suresh Chavhanke spewed hate against Muslims. Hindutva leader Kalicharan Maharaj claimed that Muslim countries such as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, as well as Indonesia, Taiwan, Cambodia and Australia, were all Hindu nations, earlier and people there were forcefully converted to Islam. TV news channel *Times Now* on 15th February reported that in Palamu, Jharkhand, communal clashes erupted over Maha Shivratri preparations. Disturbing scenes from the spot showed mobs pelting stones at each other and vandalising two-wheelers parked on roadside. A few houses were also set ablaze by the violent mobs, sources said.

The Indian Express on 16th February reported that in Yelburga, Koppal district of Karnataka, state BJP chief Naveen Kateel in a hate speech claimed that





Hindus should chase away Tipu lovers (Muslims); only those who chant Ram bhajans should be here (India). Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 16th February reported that in Chhatarpur, M.P., a Hindu mob attacked a Muslim religious place, while the local Police stood guard silently and watched the vandals destroying the place.

Web portal *thewire.in* on 16th February reported that Two Muslim men were found burned to death by alleged cow vigilantes in Bharatpur, Rajasthan, the two were residents of Mewat, Haryana and were allegedly waylaid by cow vigilantes, assaulted and then burnt to death, by cow vigilantes belonging to the Bajrang Dal, BD Haryana state unit's chief Monu Manesar has denied the allegation.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 16th February reported that in New Delhi's Karol Bagh area, cow vigilante unit of the Bharatiya Navyug Sangh manhandled a Muslim truck driver from Mewat over allegations of transporting beef. *The New Indian Express* on 16th February reported that in Balkhandi Naka, Banda, U.P., Bajrang Dal and VHP cadres vandalised an under-construction mosque. The cadres went berserk even as the police officers who were called to control the commotion, stood as mute spectators.

Two Muslim men were found burned to death by alleged cow vigilantes in Bharatpur-Rajasthan, the two were residents of Mewat-Haryana and were allegedly waylaid by cow vigilantes





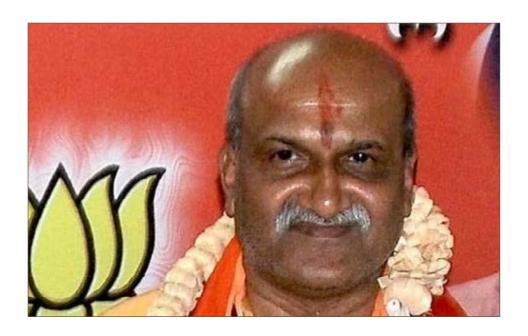
After the gruesome killing of two Muslim men in Bhiwani-Rajasthan, the VHP and Bajrang Dal held a huge rally in Gurugram-Haryana in support of the accused cow vigilante Monu Manesar

The Hindustan Times reported on 19th February that after the gruesome killing of two Muslim men in Bhiwani, Rajasthan, the VHP and Bajrang Dal held a huge rally in Gurugram, Haryana in support of the accused cow vigilante Monu Manesar. News portal muslimmirror.com and various other newspapers reported on 19th February that the central government has issued a notice to take over 123 properties currently under the management of the Delhi Waqf (Endowment) Board. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has decided to take over these 123 properties including mosques, dargahs and graveyards, evoking a sharp reaction from the Muslim community, as the value of these properties runs into billions of rupees and they are situated at prime places in the capital New Delhi. The deputy land and development officer, in a letter to the

board on 8th February, informed it of the decision to "absolve" it from all matters pertaining to these 123 Waqf properties. Web portal *thenewsmen.com* reported on 19th February that addressing a public rally in South District of Goa, controversial Hindu godman Baba Ramdev said that Akbar, Babur or Aurangzeb are not our heroes, and we have been taught wrong history in state boards or NCERT books. This has to be changed. Our superheroes are Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Rana Pratap, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh and those who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Web portal siasat.com and various posts on Twitter reported on 20th February





that controversial Hindu leader Bajrang Muni, who last year in April had also urged the people to kill and rape Muslim women, in a latest statement has said that Muslim genocide is inevitable for establishing a Hindu Rashtra in India. *The Statesman* reported on 20th February that in Khargaone, M.P., over two dozen people were reportedly injured in a clash that broke out over alleged stopping of Dalit devotees from offering prayers at a Shiva temple on the

occasion of Mahashivratri (a Hindu festival) on Saturday, according to official sources. The Hindustan Times reported on 20th February that in Bagalkot, Karnataka, controversial right-wing organisation Sri Ram Sene's leader Pramod Muthalik made an indecent statement that if a Hindu girl is entrapped under 'Love Jihad' then it becomes the duty of the Hindu youth to trap 10 Muslim women and defile them. JEM has asked its legal team to take legal action against Mr Muthalik and a letter was sent to the Chief Minister of Karnataka by Maulana Mahmood Madani to take strict action against Mr Muthalik. Web portal *cip.org.in* reported on 20th February that in Latur, Maharashtra, local authorities were urged to take action against T Raja Singh, a BJP leader, for inciting hate, allegedly on the occasion of Shivaji Jayanti, Singh made explicit calls for violence against and killing of Muslims and establishing a "Hindu nation".

Web portal *thehindustangazette.com* reported on 21st February that in Nizamabad, Telngana, the Bajrang

Sri Ram Sene's leader Pramod Muthalik allegedly said that if a Hindu girl is entrapped under 'Love Jihad' then it becomes the duty of the Hindu youth to trap 10 Muslim women and defile them



In Bihar, Bajrang Dal members allegedly raised the slogan "Mohammad Tere Baap Ka Naam, Jai Siva Ram, Jai Siya Ram" which roughly translates to 'Mohammad. your father's name is Jai Siva Ram'



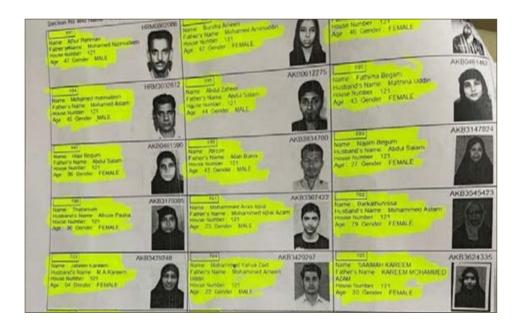
Dal's Telangana unit distributed Trishuls (tridents) to 400 Hindu men and administered an oath asking them to take a vow to protect their Hindu faith and their nation. The oath was administered as a part of the new members' initiation into the Dal, they could be heard reciting, "Prathi kashtam ochinapudu memu ayudham When any suffering befalls, we should be prepared to fight

tho fight cheyali", (When any suffering befalls, we should be prepared to fight with weapons).

News portal *thewire.in* reported on 23rd February that in Mewat, Haryana, a Muslim man Nadir, resident of Palwal was brutally beaten by three unidentified men in Palwal, Haryana while travelling in a shared auto-rickshaw. Web portal *thehindustangazette.com* on 23rd February reported that in Madhepura, Bihar, Bajrang Dal workers raised derogatory slogans against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). A video of the incident went viral on the social media. The Bajrang Dal members allegedly raised the slogan "Mohammad Tere Baap Ka Naam, Jai Siya Ram, Jai Siya Ram" which roughly translates to 'Mohammad, your father's name is Jai Siya Ram'. The JUH sent a letter to the state CM asking for details about the incident and taking action against the culprits.

Web portal *siasat.com* on 24th February reported that in Diha Village, Gaya, Bihar, a mob lynched 3 Muslim men on suspicion of being thieves, leading to Mohammad Babar being dead and other two Ruknuddin Alam and Mohammad Sajid being injured. Police have so far filed two different FIRs in the case, and while they have said that no communal angle was involved in the incident,





family members of the victims have described it as a "targeted killing". The police apprehended three of the accused while the three others escaped. The JUH sent a letter to the state chief minister asking for details about the incident.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 24th February reported that in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, a Hindu far-right mob fired an improvised rocket at an Islamic shrine

while shouting Hindu religious slogans. According to reports, the mob also pelted stones at the shrine and demanded its closure. Allegedly Bajrang Dal members were involved in the incident. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 25th February reported that in Raxaul, Bihar, an old Muslim man was beaten by a mob over allegations that he was transporting beef. The JUH sent a letter to the state chief minister asking for details about the incident and taking action against the culprits.

Web portal *muslimmirror.com* on 25th February reported that in Bengaluru, Karnataka, over 9000 Muslim voters' names were removed from the voters list in Shivaji Nagar constituency of Bengaluru. The removal was done based on a complaint filed by a private agency named Chilume, which has links to the BJP. The complaint was filed on November 16, 2022, and the Election Commission took the subsequent action in January 2023. The JUH sent a letter to the state chief minister asking for details about the incident. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on

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adult franchise



Thousands
of Hindu
supremacists
marched
through
the streets
in Mumbai
raising antiMuslim
slogans, and
asserting India
is becoming
a ripe case
for a Muslims
Genocide



25th February reported that in Samastipur, Bihar, Mohammad Faiyaz, a Muslim youth with mental health issues, was beaten to death by a mob. Family members have accused Mahendra Paswan, a local who lives in the same village, of tying up Faiyaz in his house. The JUH sent a letter to the state chief minister

asking for details about the incident and taking action against the culprit Mahendra Paswan. TV news channel, *NDTV* on 25th February reported that in a village in Calangute, Goa, a man was forced to apologise and chant "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" for supporting Pakistan's cricket team during a T20 match. The headman of the village confirmed the incident, but no formal complaint has been registered so far with the panchayat or any other authority.

Twitterati *Askoh Swain* on 26th February reported that in Mumbai, Maharashtra, thousands of Hindu supremacists marched through the streets raising anti-Muslim slogans, and commenting that India is becoming a ripe case for Muslim Genocide.

On 26th February, TV anchor and far right Hindu supporter *Suresh Chavanke* posted on Twitter that very soon he'll be hosting a show #Islamkinazarse on his controversial pro-Hindu TV channel Sudarshan News, to understand Islam from a 360° angle (as per the promo on YouTube) for which he is currently studying the issue and urged his supporters to supply him with any relevant anti-Muslim material.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 28th February reported that in Khandwa, M.P.





a Muslim youth named Sahil Khan was beaten by a group of radicals just because he walked around their locality. They told him that Bandas (a derogatory reference to Muslims in Khandwa region) were not allowed in the area.

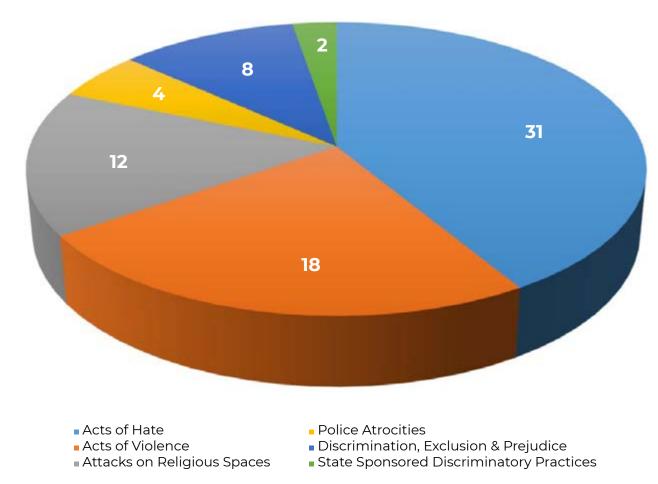
The Indian Express on 27th February reported that in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, a right-wing Hindu organisation Jan Aakrosh Morcha held a rally against 'Love Jihad and Land Jihad'. Another right-wing Hindu organisation Sakal Hindu Samaj also held a march in Navi Mumbai, commencing from Vashi's Blue Diamond Chowk. This is the third protest of its kind being organised by Sakal Hindu Samaj in Mumbai in the past month. The Navi Mumbai police have said they have video-graphed the gathering and are analysing the content of the speeches, before taking any further action.

Right-wing
Hindu
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Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 28th February reported that in Pratapgarh, U.P., a local "journalist" along with local Police's help stopped a Christian congregation at a makeshift church over allegations of religious conversions.



75 Hate Crime cases reported during March 2023



March Case Summary

The third month of 2023 saw 75 verified Hate Crime cases. The increased cases occurred in the holy month of Ramadan of the Muslim community, which coincided with Hindu festival of Ram Navami, on the occasion of which the Hindu community took out celebratory rallies, which left a trail of violence against the Muslims. In an opinion piece in *The Indian Express* rights activist Harsh Mander wrote: "The line between the vigilantes and the state seems to be blurring in Haryana. The Haryana government created a Cow Protection Task Force headed by an Inspector General of Police. But raw power seems to have shifted from the





police to violent vigilante groups. These operate as gangs, openly terrorising people, undeterred by the lawlessness of their actions. And the lines that separate them from the uniformed police have dangerously blurred."

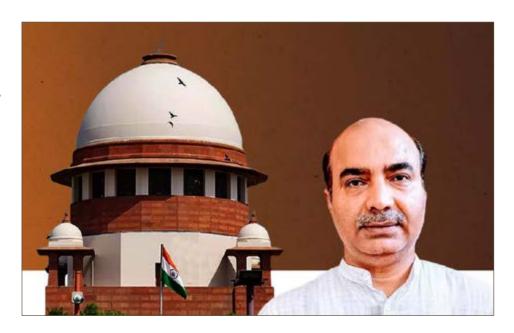
The two Supreme Court Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna, were in news again in March, when they dismissed a plea by Ashwini Upadhyay, who wanted the ministry of home affairs to set up a committee to restore the original Hindu names of cities which have been named after Muslim rulers. Asking him not to dig up history in a bid to keep the present and future generations" prisoners of past", Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna said, "you want to bring acertain point of view on history... and create more disharmony." *Dismissing his PIL*, the judges told Upadhyay, "We cannot wish away the invasions. But can't we move forward and deal with the problems at hand?"

In an opinion piece in *The Hindustan Times*, Yashowardhan Jha Azad, former IPS officer, who also served as: Special Director-Intelligence Bureau, Secretary Security-MHA, GoI, and also as a Central Information Commissioner urged the government to reign in cow vigilante groups, the article delves in detail about cow vigilantes' role in states and why it's important to rein them in to maintain law and order.

Supreme Court Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna, dismissed a plea urging the ministry of home affairs to set up a committee to restore the Hindu names of cities which have been named after Muslim rulers



Justice
Shamim
Ahmad of
Allahabad
High Court,
while deciding
a cowslaughter
case, made
the remark,
"Those who
kill cows are
deemed to rot
in hell"



Perhaps for the first time in recent years, the News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority of India found several TV news programmes to have violated Ethics Code. With reference to a News 18 news debate of 18th January, 2022, the NBDSA observed

that the thrust of the programme had religious undertones. "By starting the debate on the premise that 20% people were ganging up against Hindus constituting 80%, the anchor had given the debate a thrust, which is communal in nature and not appropriate," it said. As regards to "Desh Nahi Jhukne Denge with Aman Chopra live" show relating to the Praveen Nettaru murder case, the NBDSA noted that "during the debate the anchor instead of blaming a few miscreants for the murders and violence in fact blamed the religion for the violence that occurred".

Another side of the judiciary was shown by Justice Shamim Ahmad of Allahabad High Court, when deciding a cow-slaughter case, he made the remark, "Those who kill cows are deemed to rot in hell". The HC judge refused to quash criminal proceedings against man accused of cow slaughter in UP, referring extensively to scripture & legends while speaking about the qualities of a cow. The judge, made the observations while passing an order on 14th February - incidentally declared as "Cow Hug Day" by the Animal Welfare Board of India, though the directive was later cancelled.

A report from Haryana described how the real targets for saving the cow have not been achieved in Haryana, but on the other hand cases of cow vigilantism have increased in the state. The *report* says that since Haryana's decision in 2015 to enact a law banning cow slaughter and consumption of beef, vigilante groups have taken it upon themselves to stop cattle smuggling. But the law hasn't achieved





A RSS conclave suggested that no quota or reservation should be extended to Muslim and Christian Dalits since the two religions claim to be egalitarian

its basic objective of bringing offenders to book. Conviction rates under the law have been and remain extremely low while investigations plod along. Last year, for instance, 402 cases were filed invoking provisions of the *Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan* (HGSG) Act, but just eight reached the trial stage.

News about a two-day conclave organised by the RSS's mass communication wing *Vishwa Samwad Kendra* (Global Communication Centre) on proposal to extend reservation to Dalit Christians and Muslims in Greater Noida, U.P., unanimously held that the current system to reservations for the Scheduled Castes must not be tinkered with and no quota should be extended to Muslims and Christian Dalits since the two religions claim to be egalitarian. As per the report, "The Conclave unanimously reiterated that the reservation for Schedule Castes is an article of faith and shall continue," VHP working president Anil Agarwal said. More than 150 persons participated in the Conclave, including former Judges, serving and Former vice chancellors, deans, professors, journalists, advocates, column writers and other academics.

A report on news web portal *cjp.org.in* delved into, *How 'love jihad'* rallies are spreading hate against Muslims in Maharashtra'. The report stated that "Love jihad" is a conspiracy theory peddled by Hindu supremacist groups that claims that there is a plot by Muslim men to seduce Hindu women in order to convert them to Islam. Similarly, "land jihad" proponents accuse Muslims of waging a campaign to encroach on public land and property owned by Hindus. However, even the Supreme Court's scrutiny announced on 4th February on a PIL against such rallies did little to stem the flood of provocative speeches



11 major rallies were organised in Maharashtra, by lesserknown organisations like Vishwa Shriram Sena. Hindu Rashtra Sena, Hindu Janjagruti Samiti. and Hindu Pratisthan, claiming they are part of the Sakal Hindu Samaj



at these rallies, which are being organised under the umbrella of the *Sakal Hindu Samaj*. In the weeks after the court's order, at least 11 major rallies were organised reportedly in Maharashtra. Groups like Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Sanatan Sanstha and Durga Vahini, lesser-known organisations like Vishwa Shriram Sena, Hindu Rashtra Sena, Hindu Janjagruti Samiti, and Hindu Pratisthan, as well as trustees and priests of temples have led the events. These organisations say they are part of the Sakal Hindu

Samaj. "This is a collective under which all Hindu organisations come together," said Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Anand Pandey, and "It has existed for a long time."

Hate Crime cases reported in March 2023

The Times of India and web portal the *scroll.in* reported on 1st March that in Ghaziabad, U.P., a pastor and his wife were arrested after a Bajrang Dal functionary lodged a police complaint, accusing them of converting people to Christianity. Santosh John (55), who is originally from Kerala, and his wife Jiji (50) lived in the Kanawani area of Indirapuram. A police team took them into custody from their rented house.

Web portals *thehindustangazette.com* and *roznamakhabrein.com* reported on 2nd March that in Mirpur Village of West Champaran, Bihar, Abbas Ansari, a resident of Maliya Tola of Mirpur village, was beaten to death by a mob. In the last two weeks, four Muslims have been lynched in four different districts of Bihar.





Web portals *sabrangindia.com* and *siasat.com* reported on 2nd March that in Jhajra, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, a crowd led by far-right Hindu women leader Radha Semwal, reputed for her anti-minority hate, led a group of men and urged them to demolish a Mazaar, apparently, she is also leading a campaign entiled 'Mazaar Mukti' aimed at demolishing all Muslim shrines and also berates those Hindus who visit these Mazaars.

Hindi newspaper *Dainik Bhaskar* reported on 3rd March that in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a Muslim girl was trapped by her Hindu colleague and sexually abused for one year, when she became pregnant, he and his mother forced her to abort her baby. The girl, Rani has alleged that the police is also complicit in the case and is not taking any action against the culprit and his family, she also alleged that her boyfriend had forced her to take bath in River Ganga to purify her.

Web portals *cjp.org.in* and *sabrangindia.com* reported on 3rd March that in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, the AHP leader Pravin Togadia delivered a Hate speech at MPS Science College, where he allegedly said that after next fifty years, our houses, our sisters and daughters, nothing will be safe, if the Muslims are not wiped out from this country.

News portals *clarionindia.net* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 5th March that in Uttarakhand Muslim vendors are allegedly

In Jhajra, Dehradun-Uttarakhand. a crowd led by farright Hindu leader Radha Semwal, reputed for her antiminority hate, led a group of men and urged them to demolish a Mazaar



Karnataka
state education
minister B.C.
Nagesh has
said that
students
wearing Hijab
will not be
allowed to
appear for PUC
exams



harassed by Hindutva supporters for plying their trade in Hindu areas. HindutvaWatch's Twitter handle shared the video of a Hindu lady asking Muslim vendors for their Aadhar card and raising objections to their entry into the Hindu areas.

TV news channel *IndiaTV* and web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 6th March that in Mathura, U.P., members of All India Gauraksha Mahasangh thrashed a truck driver blaming him of cow smuggling. Later the Police arrested the truck driver.

Web portal *dalittimes.com* reported on 5th March that in Bahraich, U.P., upper caste Hindus barged into a Dalit, Sonu Pasi's house, vandalised it and also beat Sonu and his wife with sticks, for no apparent reason.

Web portal *thewire.in* reported on 2nd March that on 1st March, Prayagraj administration in Uttar Pradesh reportedly demolished a house, which was alleged to belong to an aide of Samajwadi Party MP and jailed don Atiq Ahmed. The house actually belongs to Zafar Ahmed Khan, the Banda reporter of ANI, a TV news agency.

TV news channel *IndiaTV* reported on 5th March that in Sitamarhi, Bihar, the Police removed loudspeakers from a site where a religious Hindu yagya was being organised, in the ensuing scuffle with police the attendees pelted the police force with stones, several policemen including a DSP were injured in stone pelting. Earlier, in Sitamarhi there have been demands by local Hindu residents to get loudspeakers installed at masjids to be removed, as allegedly they cause noise pollution.





The Hindustan Times reported on 5th March that in Karnataka the state education minister BC Nagesh in a statement has said that students wearing Hijab will not be allowed to sit-in for exams for PUC, slated to begin on 9 March in the state.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 6th March that in Sunderbani, Jammu city, Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Swami Dinesh Bharti delivered a communal speech and called on every Hindu to keep weapons at home. Speaking at a Trishul (trident) distribution event, he urged Hindus to be armed. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 6th March that in Buldhana, Maharashtra, a

coalition of Hindu far-right groups under the banner of Sakal Hindu Janakroash organised a rally to protest against "Love Jihad," adding to a series of such protests in Maharashtra.

Web portals *thehindustangazette.com* and hindutvawatch.org reported on 7th March that in Ghaziabad, U.P., a local firebrand Hindu women leader Aastha Maa and a mob accused a Muslim youth of theft and later the mob brutally thrashed the youth and shaved his head. Web portals *cjp.org.in* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 7th March that in Mathura, U.P. members of the Gau Raksha Dal, a cow vigilante group brutally thrashed a Muslim man, Salahuddin, over allegations of cow smuggling. In a video it could be seen he was being slapped and manhandled by several men. TV news channel *NDTV* reported on 7th March that in Saran District of Bihar, a Muslim man Naseem Qureshi was lynched on suspicion of

In a speech delivered at Sunderbani, Jammu city, Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Swami Dinesh Bharti urged every Hindu to keep weapons at home



Firebrand farright Hindu
leader T. Raja
Singh delivered
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hate speech at
Shrirampur,
Maharashtra,
calling Muslims
"cockroaches"



carrying beef. A mob allegedly intercepted Naseem Qureshi and his nephew Firoz and one another person at Jogia village. While Firoz managed to escape, Naseem was allegedly thrashed and he later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Three persons named in the FIR, including the Sarpanch (headman) of the village were arrested. The family of Naseem has alleged that the police were trying to shield the accused.

TV news channel *ZeeNews* and several posts on Twitter on 10th March showed young kids throwing water balloons at burqa clad women in several cities of India. There was a furore amongst Twiterrati for such sexual and religiously targeting activities.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* and several posts on Facebook reported on 11th March that in Kargi Chowk, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, firebrand right-wing Hindu women leader Radha Semwal Dhoni, state president of Mahila Morcha Uttarakhand, continues to harass Muslims. This time she went to a slum demanding the Muslim residents from Assam to show their Aadhar cards and IDs and accused them of being Bangladeshi citizens.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 12th March that in Shrirampur, Maharashtra, a firebrand far-right Hindu leader T. Raja Singh delivered yet another hate speech calling Muslims "cockroaches", he also called for large-scale violence and an economic boycott of Muslims. TV news channel Zee News and its web portal *zeenews.india.com* reported on 12th March that in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, local cricket fans heckled, cricketer Mohammed Shami with religious chants, during a cricket match.





The Hindustan Times reported on 13th March that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Karnataka minister KS Eshwarappa made an Islamophobic and controversial remark, saying: "This (*azaan*) is a headache for me, wherever I go I have the same problem. Does Allah hear prayers only if one screams on a microphone? Is Allah deaf? I have no doubt there will be an end to this soon as there is a Supreme Court judgement. PM Modi has asked us to respect all religions, but I must ask, can Allah hear only if you scream on a microphone? This issue must be resolved soon". Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 13th March that in Bhajanpura, New Delhi, cow vigilantes assaulted two young

Muslim youth for allegedly stealing cows.

The Deccan Herald reported on 14th March that in Haveri, Karnataka stones were pelted at Muslim homes and a mosque during a procession by Hindu outfits and Kuruba community organisations, leading to communal tension in the area on Tuesday. The Police have so far detained 15 miscreants and an investigation is on. Web portal hindutvawatch.org reported on 14th March that in Jind, Haryana, cow vigilante groups organised a Gau Raksha Hindu Mahapanhayat, where speakers delivered hate speeches targeting Muslims. Web news portals thescroll.in and thehindustangazette.com reported on 14th March that in Nanded, Maharashtra, four people were detained for assaulting a Muslim food delivery boy, Amran Tamboli, who has alleged that he was attacked because of his religion but the police have ruled out any communal angle.

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Assam's Chief
Minister
Himanta Biswa
Sarma vowed
to continue
his crackdown
on madrassas
in the state,
saying people
want to pursue
education
in schools
and colleges
instead of
madrassas



The Deccan Herald reported on 14th March that RSS's general secreatry Dattareya Hosabole speaking at en event in Samlakha, Haryana stated that Indian is already a Hindu Rashtra, which is a cultural concept and need not be established by the

Constituition. Explaining his statement, he said Nation and State are two different things. While a nation is a "cultural concept", State is that which is established by the Constitution. "Nation is a cultural concept. Bharat is already a Hindu Rashtra. It doesn't need to be made a Hindu Rashtra," he added.

Web portals *telugustop.com* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 16th March that the Malali mosque row in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district has resurfaced again as Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) activists recently performed a special 'yagna' seeking divine blessing and intervention for a temple to come up at the site of the mosque.

TV news agency ANI through its Twitter handle reported on 17th March that Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma vowed to continue his crackdown on madrassas in the state, saying people want to pursue education in schools and colleges instead of madrassas. He allegedly said, "I have closed 600 madrassas and I intend to close all madrassas because we do not want madrassas. We want schools, colleges and universities," while addressing the BJP's Vijay Sankalp Yatra in pollbound Belagavi, Karnataka. TV news channel ABP's web portal *abplive.com* and web portal *jagran.com* reported on 17th March about an exclusive interview to AbpLive, in which gangster Lawrence Bishnoi currently lodged in the Tihar Central Jail in New Delhi told a reporter that 'The aim of my life is to kill Salman Khan', showing how deep hate has percolated down in today's India, in which a criminal has made it his





life's aim to kill a Muslim cine star. Web portals *clarionindia.net* and *hindutvawatch.org* and several users on YouTube reported on 17th March that far-right Hindu leader and TV presenter, Suresh Chavanke, in an interview with a YouTuber, allegedly called for converting 40 lakh Muslim women to Hinduism to increase the decreasing ratio of Hindu womenfolk. Chavanke, a notorious Hindutva protagonist well-known for his hate speeches against Muslims and Christians, made controversial remarks while talking to a YouTube channel. "We need forty lakh women from the Muslim community to increase the ratio

In Karnataka, Hindu Janajagruti Samiti (HJS) has asked the authorities to promote Hindu 'jhatka' meat shops in every nook and corner of the state and demanded the BJP to include the "Halal Certificate **Prohibition** Act" in its election manifesto

as women are less than men among Hindus. Then, we match the ratio of men and women among Hindus. Tell this Maulana that we don't need to be worried for 30 lakh Muslims so far. We will see it later for another 10 lakh," he said. Web portals *indiatoday.in* reported on 17th March that a right-wing Hindu organisation of Karnataka has once again demanded a ban on 'halal' meat in the state ahead of Ugadi, one of the biggest festivals of Kannadigas (Hindu residents of Karnataka). The Hindu Janajagruti Samiti (HJS) has also asked the authorities to promote Hindu 'jhatka' meat shops in every nook and corner of the state and demanded the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to include the "Halal Certificate Prohibition Act" in its election manifesto this year for the state assembly elections.

Web portals *latestly.com* and *thehindustangazette.com* reported on 18th March that in Muzaffarnagar, U.P., Hindu Mahasabha took out a rally seeking revocation of minority status to Muslims and declaring India a Hindu nation. Hindi newspaper *Dainik Bhaskar* reported on 18th March that a group of Hindutva activists set a truck



A group of
Hindutva
activists
recited
Hanuman
Chalisa in front
of a church
in JodhpurRajasthan,
to harass the
Christian
community



on fire on suspicion of it being used in transporting cows, in Bhilwara, Rajasthan. News magazine *India Today* reported on 20th March that a Muslim youth, Mohammad Momin, a resident Maharashtra landed in trouble for hailing Mughal emperor

of Kolhapur city in Maharashtra landed in trouble for hailing Mughal emperor Aurangzeb on his WhatsApp status. A case was registered at Vadgaon police station against him after a complaint was filed. The Police registered a case under Section 295 and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, against him.

Hindi newspaper *Amar Ujala* reported on 19th March that a group of Hindutva activists recited Hanuman Chalisa in front of a Church in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, so as to harass the Christians there. Hindi newspaper *Amar Ujala* reported on 17th March that a Muslim man, Allaudin was beaten to death by some Hindus over the allegation of crop theft in Siwan, Bihar. Subsequently, a clash between the two communities occurred after which Police has been deployed at the site of the clash.

The Times of India reported on 18th March that in Gautampura, M.P., a group of Dalits who had gone to take possession of a disputed farmland in Kalva village of Gautampura, were attacked by members of an upper caste community leading to the death of a Dalit.

Web portal of news magazine *Outlook India* reported on 20th March that university authorities of Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU), Vadodara, Gujarat cancelled a seminar after ABVP objected to presence of a professor from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi at the event. In a video ABVP members can be seen confronting the Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the university. *Times of India* and web portal





siasat.com reported on 20th March that a video showing right-wing activists bringing down a billboard bearing the word 'Aurangabad' at a public building went viral on social media. The group can be seen violently attacking the board and tearing down the portion that reads "Aurangabad Mahanagar Palika" (Aurangabad Municipality). Allegedly these right-wing activists belonged to the Hindu Jan Garjana Morcha. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 20th March that in Raipur, Chhattisgar that the Virat Sankalp Dharmsabha

In Raipur-Chattisgarh, at a Virat Sankalp Dharmsabha (Religoius Vow Taking Conclave), organised by the Vishwa Hindu **Parishad** (VHP), Hindu priests urged the audience to be armed and be ready for declaring India a Hindu Rashtra

(Religoius Vow Taking Gathering), organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Hindu priests urged the audience to be armed and be ready for declaring India a Hindu Rashtra.

The Times of India and web portal hindutvawatch.org reported on 20th March that in Gorakhpur, U.P., the local Police claims to have detained a person from Banaras who has been accused of converting a group of more than 50 women to Christianity. Web portal hindutvawatch.org reported on 20th March that in Shahpur, Himachal Pradesh, a group of Christians living in a rented accommodation were heckled by the local people over accusations of religious conversions and asked them to leave the village immediately. TV news channel newsglive, news paper The Daily Guardian and several posts on Youtube reported that on 20th March in Shivamoga, Karnataka, Bajrang Dal activists disrupted Christian 'prayer meeting' in Shivamoga alleging forcible conversion, though in fact the prayer meetings have been held by the Christian community at the same place for the last 15 years. Dainik Jagran reported on 20th March that in Etawah, U.P., a 35-year-old Muslim





The state
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state

man - Amjad, was attacked by a car owner and his son on suspicion of being a car thief. Amjad died while undergoing treatment at the hospital. Both the accused were arrested by the police and a case of murder against them was registered at the Sadar Kotwali, Etawah.

Deccan Herald and all major newspapers reported on 24th March that in a controversial decision, the State Government of Karnataka has decided to scrap the 4 per cent reservation for Muslims under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota in

the state. Now on this reservation will be distributed equally among the dominant Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities in a major policy move ahead of the assembly election, targeted at garnering the OBC votes.

Web portals *cjp.org.in* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 23rd March that in Nashik, Mumbai, at a Hindu Hunkar Sabha, far-right leader and TV anchor Suresh Chavhanke delivered yet another hate speech targeting Muslims. He peddled conspiracy theories, targeting Rohingya refugees, and said he would gift a bulldozer to the Maharashtra chief minister to copy what the U.P. administration is doing in U.P.

Web portal *scroll.in* reported on 27th March that in Moradabad, U.P., members of the right-wing Hindutva organisation Bajrang Dal, stopped Muslims from holding a prayer meeting (Taraweeh prayers) during Ramzan at a warehouse in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad city. Following a complaint, the police asked Muslims to offer prayers at their homes or religious places only.





The Free Press Journal reported on 25th March that in Ghaziabad, U.P., a Muslim man - Danish, selling jaggery on a horse driven cart was brutally thrashed by a mob over allegedly indulging in animal cruelty. An investigation was ordered following the victim's statement and two people have been arrested for being involved in the attack.

The Times of India reported on 25th March that the Bombay High Court on 23^{trd} March pronounced that the Sanatan Sanstha has not been declared a banned or a terrorist organisation by the court, while granting bail to two of its members who are accused in the 2018 Nalasopara arms haul case. Justices Sunil

Shukre and Kamal Khata allowed appeals by Liladhar alias Vijay Lodhi and Pratap Hajra who were refused bail by a special court trying them for offences, including under Unlawful Activities Act. The state's Anti-Terrorism Squad had alleged that Lodhi is part of a conspiracy to destabilise India. He is an active member of the Sanstha whose object is to form a 'Hindu Rashtra'.

Rajya Sabha turned down a resolution on backwardness of Muslims. the resolution asked the government to implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and other panels regarding the educational and social backwardness of Muslims, especially

women

The Indian Express reported on 25th March that the Rajya Sabha has turned down a Resolution on backwardness of Muslims. The resolution was moved by the Indian Union Muslim League member Abdul Wahab on 10th February and had found support across party lines, including the Congress, Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party. The resolution urged the government to implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and other panels regarding the educational and social backwardness of Muslims, especially women. While introducing the resolution,



Kajal Shingala
aka Kajal
Hindusthani
while speaking
at a 'Digital
Hindu
Conclave',
eulogised
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amongst
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Hindus



Wahab said that Muslims constituted 14% of the population but only 5.5% of those were getting higher education and only 13% Muslim women were reaching the level of higher education. When the matter was taken up on 24th March, amid

repeated adjournments, Union Minority Affairs and Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani opposed it. She said, "A new India that has been envisaged cannot be broken down on the basis of religion. I would request... the entire House unanimously reject this resolution so that we who build the new India under the leadership of the honourable Prime Minister can build it on issues of inclusion, equity and equality."

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 26th March that in Bhopal, M.P.,a firebrand Hindu leader, Kajal Shingala aka Kajal Hindusthani while speaking at event, titled 'Digital Hindu Conclave', delivered a hate speech targeting Muslims, where she eulogised violence and said there could never be brotherhood amongst Muslims and Hindus. At the same Conclave, repeated hate preacher and BJP leader Kapil Mishra made hateful remarks against Muslims and peddled the conspiracy theory of "love jihad."

Web portals *sabrangindia.in* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 27th March that in Mathura, U.P., an old video of seven Muslims offering *Namaaz* in the open grounds of the Sanskriti University, Mathura wass being circulated on social media by the extremist Hindutva organisation All India Hindu Mahasabha, in an attempt to vitiate the atmosphere in the city and stir-up a controversy by falsely claiming that university's Kashmiri students are offering *Namaaz* in the open



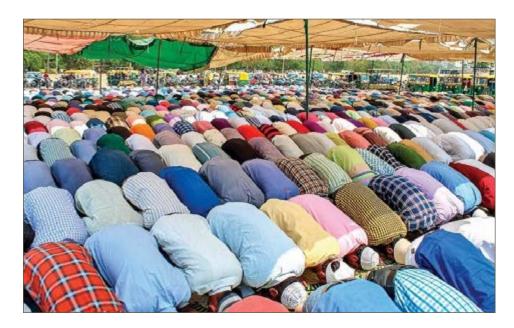


spaces in the campus every day. Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 27th March that in Krishnapura, Panipat, Haryana, members of a cow vigilante group and BJP councilor Ashok Chhabra forced meat shops in the locality to be closed during the Navratri period (an auspicious period for Hindus before observing the Ram Navmi festival). Web portals *thehindustangazette.com* and

hindutvawatch.org reported on 27th March that in Khandwa, M.P., a group of Muslims was attacked while offering Namaaz at a local mosque. In the attack some Muslims were injured and hospitalised. The attacked took place after an altercation between youth from the two communities took place earlier. Web portals *cjp.org.in* and *latestly.com* reported on 27th March that in Bargaon village of Saharanpur, U.P., some Dalit youth were mistaken to be Muslims and beaten up by miscreants over allegations of cow slaughter in the village. Web portals siasat.com and hatedetectors.com reported on 27th March that in Ujjain, M.P., Bajrang Dal activists allegedly assaulted a Muslim man, who was sitting with his Hindu female friend at a park in Ujjain. They accused him of promoting 'Love Jihad'. A video has gone viral on social media platforms where the Bajrang Dal members can be seen questioning the young man while the girl pleads with them to let them go. Web portals siasat.com and hindutvawatch.org reported on 27th March that in Sidhauli, Sitapur, U.P., three Christian missionaries were arrested on Sunday for allegedly converting Hindus to Christianity. A group of Bajrang Dal activists barged into a

In UjjainM.P., Bajrang
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In SidhauliSitapur, U.P.,
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Christian-owned house and created a ruckus alleging that the home is being used for religious conversions. Paradoxically, instead of the attackers, the three Christian victims were booked under the recently passed Anti-Conversion Law of the state.

Web portals *latestly.com* and several YouTube posts reported on 28th March that in two housing societies of Noida and Greater Noida, U.P., the local Hindu residents created a ruckus against Taraweeh prayers being held in the vacant towers of the societies, by Muslim residents of the society, though this practice has been continuing for the last three to four years, and previously no one had objected to this.

The Dalit Voice reported on 27th March that in Meerut, U.P., a Dalit youth, Lakhan's hand and feet were tied to a tree and then his face was blackened and head shaved by a group of unknown persons, for being a Dalit.

The Free Press Journal reported on 28th March that in Anwa village of Jalna, Maharashtra, unidentified people attacked an Imam who was leading the prayers at a local mosque. The anti-social elements entered the mosque and assaulted him for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. Later, a case was registered at the Paradh Police Station the Police have been conducting a probe into the case.

Web portal *ETVBharatNational* and several Twitter posts on 28th March reported that a video of Mandawli Fazalpur locality of New Delhi was being circulated on





social media platforms, which showed local BJP leader Ravinder Singh Negi asking shop owners selling chicken meat in a Muslim locality to shut down their shops, so as to "honour" the Navratri festival. Though no such order to close the meat shops was issued by any local authority.

Web portal *siasat.com* and several Twitter posts on 29th March reported that in Mumbai, Maharashtra, during a demolition drive by the local authorities, a Muslim man, identified as Haji Rafat Hussain was seen trying to convince the BMC officers that he has obtained orders from the court against the demolition. He could be seen lying down in front of the bulldozer in an attempt to stop the demolition. However, the BMC officer-in-charge seems in no mood to listen to the senior citizen. She says,

"Court orders are not valid. I will not accept it." The incident happened despite court orders against the demolition drive.

Web portals *journomirror.com* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 29th March that in Mahendragarh, Haryana, at a Gau Raksha Hindu Mahapanchayat, a cow vigilante leader openly threatened to kill the state assembly legislator Mamman Khan of Haryana.

Web portal *indiatoday.in* and *Hindustan Times* reported on 29th March that in Bellur, Hassan district, Karnataka more than 100 Bajrang Dal workers staged a protest outside a temple before the start of the annual Chariot Festival during a Hindu auspicious period, demanding that the state government

At a Gau Raksha Hindu Mahapanchayat, a cow vigilante leader openly threatened to kill the Haryana state assembly legislator, Mamman Khan



Supreme Court Judges, **Justices** K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna, on 29th March slammed the "silence of the state" to spiraling incidents of hate speeches made against minority communities. including Muslims



stop the practice of the recitation of the Holy Quran before starting the annual chariot festival. Factually, the temple follows an ages-old historical tradition of kicking-off the chariot festival after reciting passages from the Holy Quran. Right-wing Hindu groups have opposed this tradition for the past many years.

At March-end, two Supreme Court Judges Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna, on 29th March slammed the "silence of the state" to spiraling incidents of hate speeches made against minority communities, including Muslims, but the Centre pushed back, asking the court why it did not take suo motu cognisance of a video clip from Kerala showing a child being made to threaten Hindus and even Christians.

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna asked the Maharashtra government for an explanation about hate speech incidents in the state and asked the government to get data on attacks on Christians in two weeks.

Justice Nagarathna said hate speeches have made cracks in the idea of fraternity. She said hate speeches were made by "fringe elements" of all sides who have "no stuff in them". "When Vajpayee and Nehru spoke, people came from rural areas to hear them... Unfortunately, now, people with no stuff in them, fringe elements from every side are making these hate speeches... where are you taking India? Now are we going to start taking contempt action against every person in India... where are we taking this court... is there no





restraint on freedom of speech... If there is intellectual deprivation, you can never take this country to the number one position in the world. Intellectual deprivation comes only when there is intolerance, lack of knowledge, and lack of education. That is where we should concentrate first... We should as a society take a pledge to restrain ourselves from saying these things," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Joseph said the country was caught in a "vicious circle of hate" and the solution lay in expunging religion from politics. "The moment religion is separated from politics, all this will stop," Justice Joseph said. Justice Joseph

said, "... before we think of trying to be a superpower, we should first follow the rule of law". The court said hate speech strikes a mortal blow to dignity. "The most important thing is dignity. If it is demolished on a regular basis... look at the statements being made 'Go to Pakistan'... They are people who chose this country. They are like your brothers and sisters. Remember what you pledged in school 'All Indians are my brothers and sisters... Maybe I am too old-fashioned... I am retiring in four months, turning 65... Seventy-five years ago we as a nation started a journey. Our objective was to be a country that will follow the rule of law... We should never go down to that level of hate," Justice Joseph said.

Web portal *scroll.in* reported on 30th March that in Khargone, M.P., ahead of the Ram Navami festival, at many places in

In Khargone-M.P., ahead of the Ram Navami festival, 'Jai Hindu Rashtra' banners were displayed at crucial and sensitive areas of the city



Provocative anti-Muslim slogans were raised and stones pelted at a mosque, during a Ram Navami rally, at Malad, Mumbai



the city, 'Jai Hindu Rashtra' banners were displayed. The placement of hanging the banners was done at crucial sensitive areas in the city near the Talab Chowk, near the city's Jama Masjid, and in Saraf Bazaar, a market area where rioters had damaged the Dhan Mandi mosque last year, to stoke communal passion. Though no action so far has been reported against those who hanged the banners, the local administration asked the local Police to ensure that no provocative music is played outside any mosque on the occasion of the Ram Navami festival.

TV news channel *NDTV* reported on 30th March that in Kiradpura, Aurangabad, Maharashtra communal tension increased on the occasion of Ram Navami. A heavy police force was deployed in the area to prevent a communal escalation, especially because of Ram Navami and the month of Ramzan.

Web portal *thewire.in* reported on 30th March that a video went viral showing men waving saffron flags from rooftops near the Jama Masjid area in Mathura, U.P., during a Ram Navami procession, which led to the communal tension in the area and the city.

Twitterati Meer Faisal reported on 30th March that in Fatehpur locality of Vadodara, Gujarat a large number of Muslim men were arrested by the local Police, after Iftaar time following a dispute between the local residents.

Web portals *siasat.com* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 30th March that in Malad, Mumbai, provocative anti-Muslim slogans were raised and stones pelted at a mosque, during a Ram Navami rally. A row among residents broke out late at





night when some Muslims objected to the loud DJ music being played during the procession that had several hundred participants.

The Tribune reported on 30th March that in Howrah, West Bengal, violence was reported during a Ram Navami procession, and state C.M. Mamata Banerjee warned of stern action against the culprits.

Journalist Rana Ayyub posted a *Tweet* on 30th March reporting that in Surat, Gujarat, a large Hindu rally on the occasion of Ram Navami turned violent when reaching

a Masjid situated enroute, the participants started raising provocative slogans against Muslims, a video of which went viral very soon.

Web portal *aol.com* and Twitterati *Faisal Meer's* posted a video on 30th March, which showed a man waving a saffron flag inside the premises of Dargah Haji Abdul Reham Malang Shah, situated at Wadi town of Nagpur district, while several police personnel stood beside the man and in the compound, the accompanying crowd could be seen raising slogans of "Jai Sri Ram".

The Indian Express reported on 30th March that in the past 4 months, 50 rallies have been held in Maharashtra, with just one theme: 'Love jihad', 'land jihad' and economic boycott. At one such rally, at Mumbai's Mira Road on

In the past four months, 50 rallies have been held in Maharashtra, with just one theme: 'Love jihad', 'land jihad' and 'economic boycott' of Muslims



The BJP says Maharashtra rallies were organised by the Sakal Hindu Samaj, an umbrella body of Hindutva and Sangh organisations, but almost all of these events have had the presence of party leaders, including the local BJP MLA and MP



12th March, speeches were made against "Islamic aggression", "love jihad" and "land jihad", with some of the speakers calling for an economic boycott of Muslims. The report says that starting November last year, at least 50 'Hindu Jan Aakrosh Morcha' rallies have been held across Maharashtra, in almost all of the state's 36 districts. Each of these events has followed a set pattern: a brief march through the heart of the city, amid a sea of saffron flags and caps, followed by a short rally, where speakers on a

makeshift dais attack minorities, invoke "love jihad", "land jihad", "forced conversions", and calls for the "economic boycott" of the Muslim community. The report says that for the record, the BJP distances itself from these rallies, saying they are organised by the Sakal Hindu Samaj, an umbrella body of Hindutva and Sangh organisations, but almost all of these events have had the presence of party leaders, including the local BJP MLA and MP. The speeches, however, are largely delivered by right-wing hardliners, including suspended BJP leader and Telangana MLA T. Raja Singh, Kalicharan Maharaj and Kajal Hindustani — at least two of them (Singh and Maharaj) face hate speech cases both in the state and elsewhere.

Twitterati *Sana Ejaz* tweeted on 31st March that in Munger, Bihar, a group of bikeriding youths entered a Muslim-populated Hazratganj Mohalla, Khanqah Gate, during the Ram Navami procession, while waving swords and shouting slogans like "Jai Shree Ram Bolo Meya Ko Kato, Jai Shree Ram Bolo Meya Ki Topi Utaro".





(Say Jai Shree Ram and cut down the mian(Muslim), say Jai Shree Ram and remove mian's skull cap)

Web portals *Indiatoday.in* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 31st March that in Sonipat, Haryana, a procession on the occasion of Ram Navami stopped in front of a Masjid and waved the saffron flags and raised provocative slogans. An FIR was registered against 15-20 people and the local Police have arrested 5 people, so far.

Web portals *kmsnews.org* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 30th March that in Bhurkunda Bari, Dhanbad, Jharkhand a Muslim was tied to a tree and thrashed by a Hindu mob, claiming that his family members had slaughtered a bull.

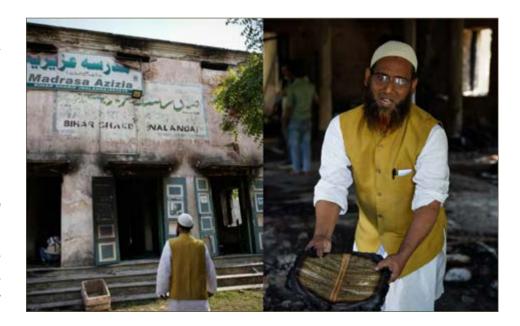
Telangana MLA T. Raja Singh speaking at a Ram Navami Shobha Yatra in Hyderabad said that a Hindu Rashtra's constitution is being prepared and it will only allow 'hum do, hamare do' (We two, our two) kind of people to vote, not those who are 'hum paanch, hamare pachas' (we five, our fifty)

Web portal *theprint.in* and several posts on YouTube reported that on 31st March, controversial Telangana MLA T Raja Singh speaking at a Ram Navami Shobha Yatra in Hyderabad said that a 'Hindu Rashtra's' constitution is being prepared and it will only allow 'hum do, hamare do' (We two, our two) kind of people to vote, not those who are 'hum paanch, hamare pachas' (we five, our fifty). He further said that the capital of this new Rashtra would be either Kashi, Mathura or Ayodhya.

Twitterati Meer Faisal *tweeted* on 31st March that in Jammu city, the local Police detained Muslim restaurant owners for cooking and selling meat during



At 11 different places in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh violence followed the Ram Navami processions



Navratra, an auspicious period for Hindus during which they don't consume alcohol or meat, in an apparent case of

police high handedness.

The Hindu reported on 31st March that in Bihar Sharif, Nalanda district of Bihar after Ram Navami violence 77 people were arrested; a mob vandalised Madrassa Azizia in Bihar Sharif, one of the oldest madrassas in Bihar, the arsonists burnt the madarssa's library housing over 4,500 books of Islamic literature claimed the Imam of the madrassa's mosque.

JEM Team after monitoring and verifying the communal incidents on the occasion of Ram Navami concluded that at 11 different places in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh violence followed the Ram Navami processions. Web portal *scroll.in* quoting figures from a Hindustan Times report said that more than 20 persons were injured and at least 54 persons were arrested by the police in different states on 29th and 30th March 2023.

JEM concurs with the *scroll's* opinion that the violence seemed to be a repeat of incidents that were reported across several states last year on Ram Navami, the last day of the Hindu festival of Navratri. Following the incidents last year, authorities had demolished shops and buildings owned by the accused persons, most of whom were Muslims. On similar lines, most of the clashes this year erupted after Ram Navami processions, playing songs on loudspeakers passed through Muslimdominated areas.





Festivities
related to birth
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and 'Hanuman
Jayanti',
were used
for strident
political
mobilisation in
April 2022

The Hindu recently published extracts from a report prepared by Citizen-Lawyer Collective, edited by Senior Advocate Chander Uday Singh, which has highlighted how routes chosen for religious processions trigger communal riots in 2022. The 176-page report presents a case-by-case

analysis of the spread of communal riots, the state and police's responses and how processions held on religious occasions become a stage to spark hatred

The report says that Ram Navami processions, in particular, have been taken over by militant Hindutva organisations over the years, as the figure of Ram is central to the political imagination of the Sangh. A shobha yatra, which translates to a "shining" or "glorious" procession, was different from traditional rath-yatras, which are organised by temples and are generally limited to nearby areas. The shobha yatras are grand processions of pomp and ceremony attempting to cover entire cities, involving "cavalcades of vehicles, each carrying dozens of men, shouting slogans and frequently wielding arms". In 1987, in the midst of the Babri Masjid–Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, VHP reportedly organised countrywide shobha yatras that were armed and raised provocative slogans.

Despite the increasingly violent nature of such processions in recent years - Ram Navami processions led to scattered incidents of communal violence in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2019 – they are portrayed by the Hindu Right and mainstream media as innocuous displays of religiosity, and blame is typically assigned to those who would challenge such displays.



Several religious processions used offensive slogans and music that openly called for violence against non-Hindus and particularly the Muslim community, leaving destruction in their trail



It is not insignificant that the occasions of the birth of Hindu Gods Ram and Hanuman, marked as 'Ram Navami' and 'Hanuman Jayanti', were used for such strident political mobilisation in April 2022: both days happened to fall in the holy month of Ramzan. The processions concertedly

targeted places of worship by gathering in front of Mosques and chanting anti-Muslim slogans, either at the same time as *Namaaz* was being offered, or at the breaking of the fast after sunset, thereby ensuring that the confrontation would coincide with the largest possible number of Muslim people being present and vulnerable.

The processions used offensive slogans and music that openly called for violence against non- Hindus and particularly the Muslim community. What are being attempted to be passed off as 'simply religious slogans' have in fact direct political messaging; they are calls that have accompanied mob lynchings and pogroms. An important part of the effort put into instigating violence, is the role of the provocative and extremist media that has changed the face of Hindu festivals and celebrations. Incendiary and anti- Muslim songs have been reported from every one of these processions and have in general become a mainstay of Hindu religious processions in recent years.

Human Rights Watch carried a report on the Ram Navami violence penned by Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director of The Human Rights Watch. She wrote, the record shows that it is usually Muslims who are unfairly targeted by the authorities. Last April, communal clashes broke out when processions





of Hindu men celebrating a religious festival shouted offensive slogans outside mosques. Instead of attempting to stop such incitement or investigate these incidents, BJP authorities in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat responded by summarily demolishing Muslim properties. In October, during another Hindu festival, police in Madhya Pradesh responded to communal clashes by demolishing the homes of three Muslim men accused of throwing stones. Police in Gujarat publicly flogged Muslim men.

Just months before violence broke out during Ram Navami celebrations, the Supreme Court had dismissed a petition highlighting how religious processions are being "weaponised" with participants brandishing arms in public and often unleashing mayhem

The BJP governments at every level have adopted discriminatory laws and policies targeting religious minorities, and its leaders and affiliates make frequent anti-minority remarks, including inciting violence.

The global Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) called the latest incidents a "vivid manifestation of mounting Islamophobia and systemic targeting of the Muslim community in India." India's Foreign Ministry responded by calling the OIC statement "one more example of their communal mindset and anti-India agenda."

The apathy of the government and state administrations to rein-in violent and aggressive mobs on the Ram Navami is evident by a report carried by *The Hindu*, which reported that just months before violence broke out during Ram Navami celebrations, the Supreme Court had dismissed a





A Meerut-U.P., court on 31st March acquitted 40 people accused of arson, murder and rioting in the Maliana case of 1987 for lack of evidence

petition highlighting how religious processions are being "weaponised" with participants brandishing arms in public and often unleashing mayhem. In December 2022, a petition by NGO Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), represented by senior advocate C.U. Singh, sought, among other reliefs, a direction to the state to develop a standard operating procedure for granting permission to take out religious processions.

The New Indian Express reported that a Meerut, U.P., court on 31st March acquitted 40 people accused of arson, murder and rioting in the Maliana case for lack of evidence. Located about eight km from the Meerut city, Maliana had witnessed riots on 23rd May 1987, following clashes in Hashimpura on 22nd May in the aftermath of the communal violence in the city during Shab-e-Barat on 14th April that left 12 dead. Dissatisfied with the local court's order, members of aggrieved families are mulling to move the Allahabad High Court against the order.



JEM's Milestones

In February, a day after the gruesome murder of Nasir and Junaid of Mewat, Haryana in adjoining Rajasthan state, the JEM Team in collaboration with Jamiat members, visited the victim's families in Mewat, Haryana. The JEM Team followed the first visit by two subsequent visits after 15 days gap to the region. JEM's Director, Maulana Hakimuddin Qasmi established contact with families of not just Nasir and Junaid, but 15 other families also, who have been victims of mob lynching or hate crimes since 2017 in the region and have lost at least one family member in the violence.

JEM Team has identified all 17 families, noted the coordinates of the surviving family members with their contact details and has appointed lawyers to fight their cases and at present is managing 17 legal cases related to Hate Crimes and Mob Lynching in different local courts of Haryana and Rajasthan. The JEM Team is monitoring the progress of these cases, at a regular basis.

JUH, based on JEM's inputs has moved the Supreme Court of India to club six legal cases on 'Love Jihad' Ordinance, filed in different state's High Courts, and constitute a single bench to hear all these cases collectively. Its legal team is keeping tabs on the progress of the cases.

Further, JEM's Director, Maulana Hakimuddin Qasmi acting swiftly filed two different PILs in Uttarakhand High Court and Delhi High Court and successfully got Judicial Stay on the demolition drives against the residents of Jahangir Puri in New Delhi and Haldwani in Uttarakhand.







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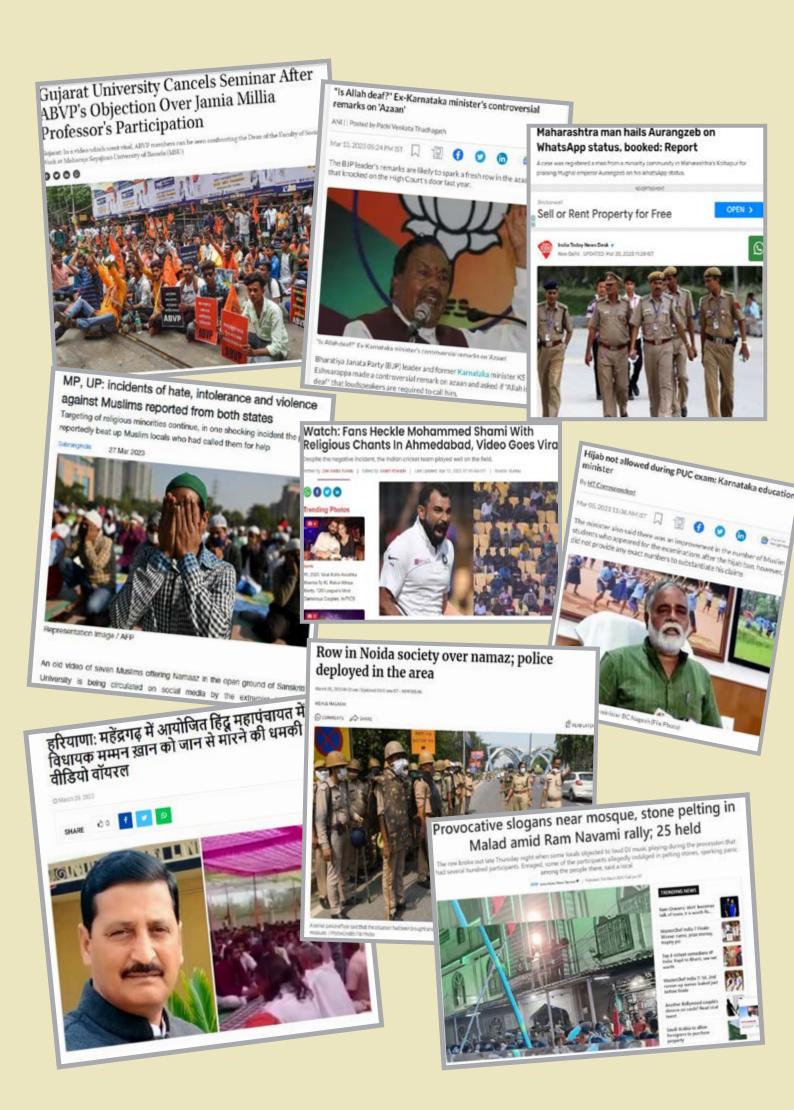
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Justice and Empowerment of Minorities (JEM) is an initiative of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the country's oldest and largest socio-cultural organisation of Indian Muslims.

JEM's mission is to safeguard the human rights of country's minorities while countering hate speech targeted against them. It endeavours to collect, collate and present cases of harassment, in any form, perpetrated against the minorities by right-wing elements. It's aim is to promote Rule of Law and access to justice, equal rights, citizen's security and human rights, in addition to defending and empowering religious minorities, marginalised persecuted individuals, groups and communities through Advocacy.

JEM's aim is to empower and provide justice and judicial assistance to the victims of such crimes, which could be categorised under 'Hate Crimes'. It further aims to strengthen the constitutional edifice of the country, which guarantees the rights and dignity of minority groups, apart from helping to build a vibrant, thriving and affluent India.

JEM publishes four Quarterly Reviews and an Annual Review every year, highlighting the hate crimes against minorities, and additionally responding to marginalisation and persecution of minorities, in addition to ensuring implementation of equal rights, justice and peace, religious tolerance and coexistence in the country.



JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES

(A Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Initiative)

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