



# **Quarterly Review** **January - March 2024**

**JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
OF MINORITIES**

(A Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Initiative)







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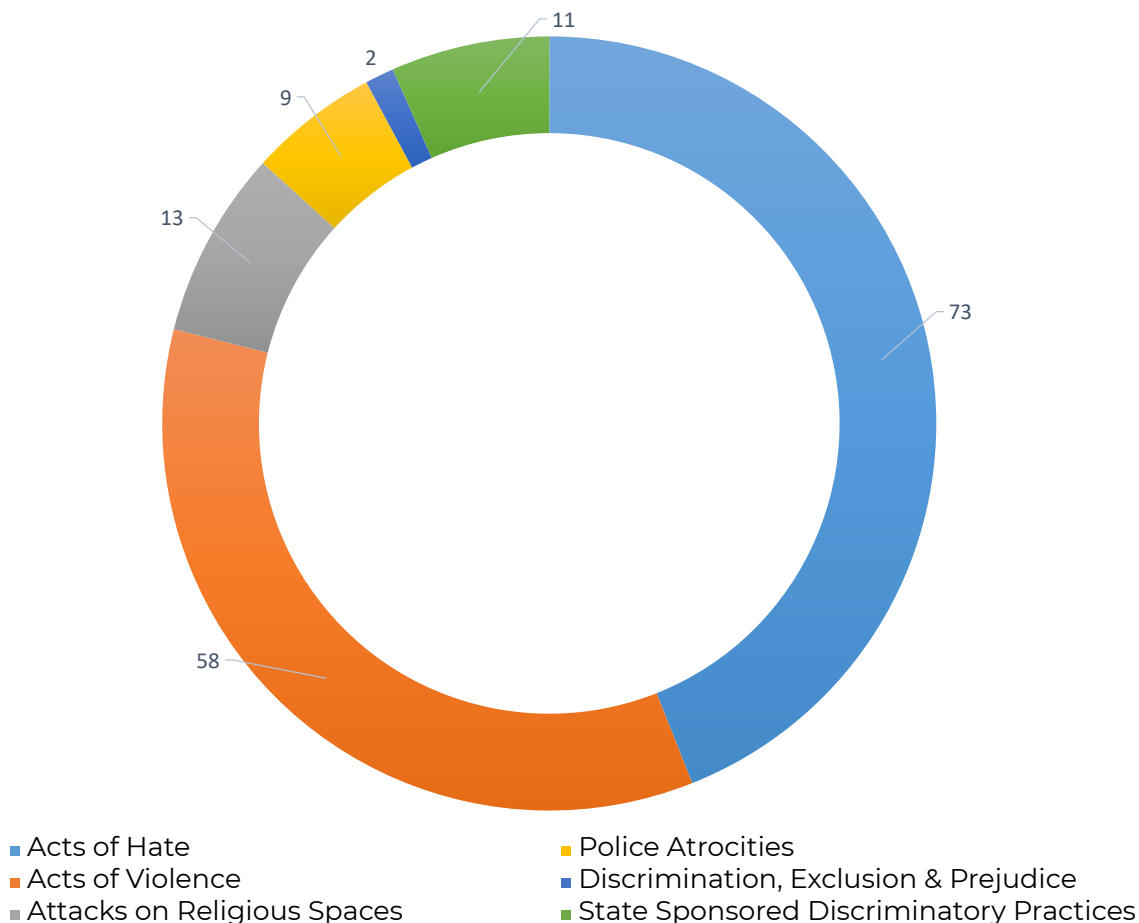


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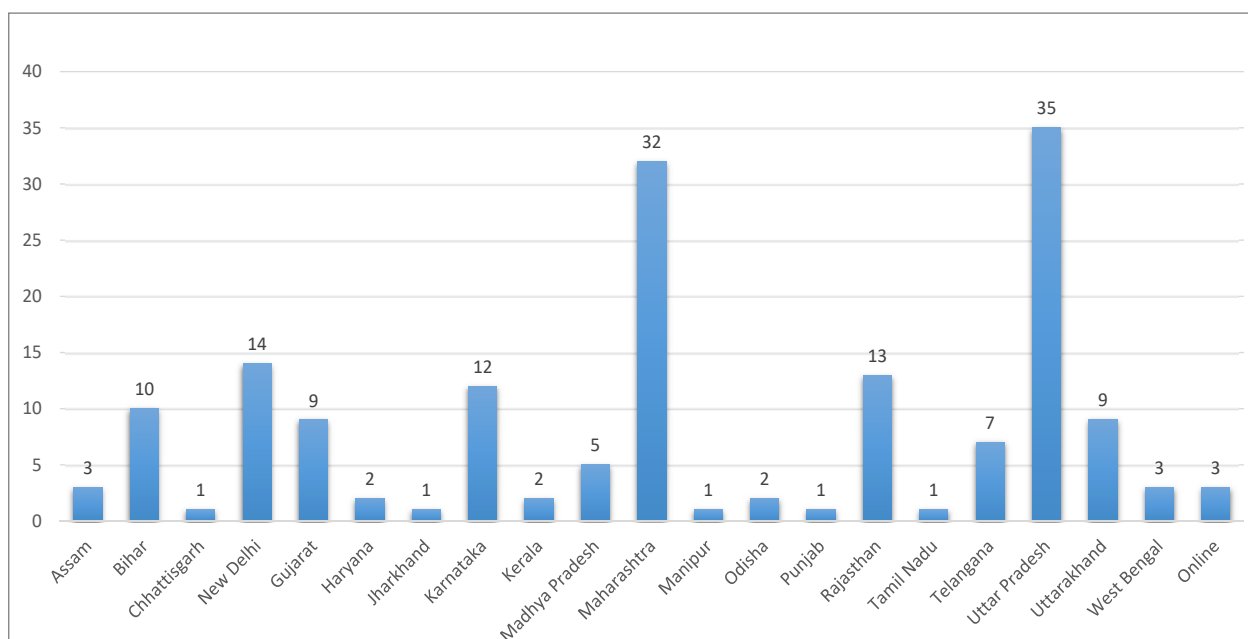
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## Hate Crime cases reported in January - March 2024

### Total Cases: 166



## All-India Hate Crime Cases state-wise: January - March 2024





## Executive Summary

The period spanning January to March 2024 witnessed a troubling surge in hate crimes and communal tensions across various regions of India, particularly in the aftermath of the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024. Despite efforts to promote peace and unity, the ceremony unfolded amidst controversy and discord, exacerbating existing communal divides. During this quarter, the Justice and Empowerment of Minorities (JEM) diligently documented 166 verified cases of hate crimes in January-March quarter, signalling a significant escalation compared to previous months. These incidents ranged from hate speech and communal violence to police misconduct and assaults on religious institutions.

In February, disturbing incidents included the controversial demolition of Maryam Masjid and Abdul Razzaq Zakariya Madrasa in Haldwani, leading to fatal clashes between police and locals in February 2024. Additionally, clashes erupted in Darbhanga during Saraswati Pooja, highlighting tensions between communities.

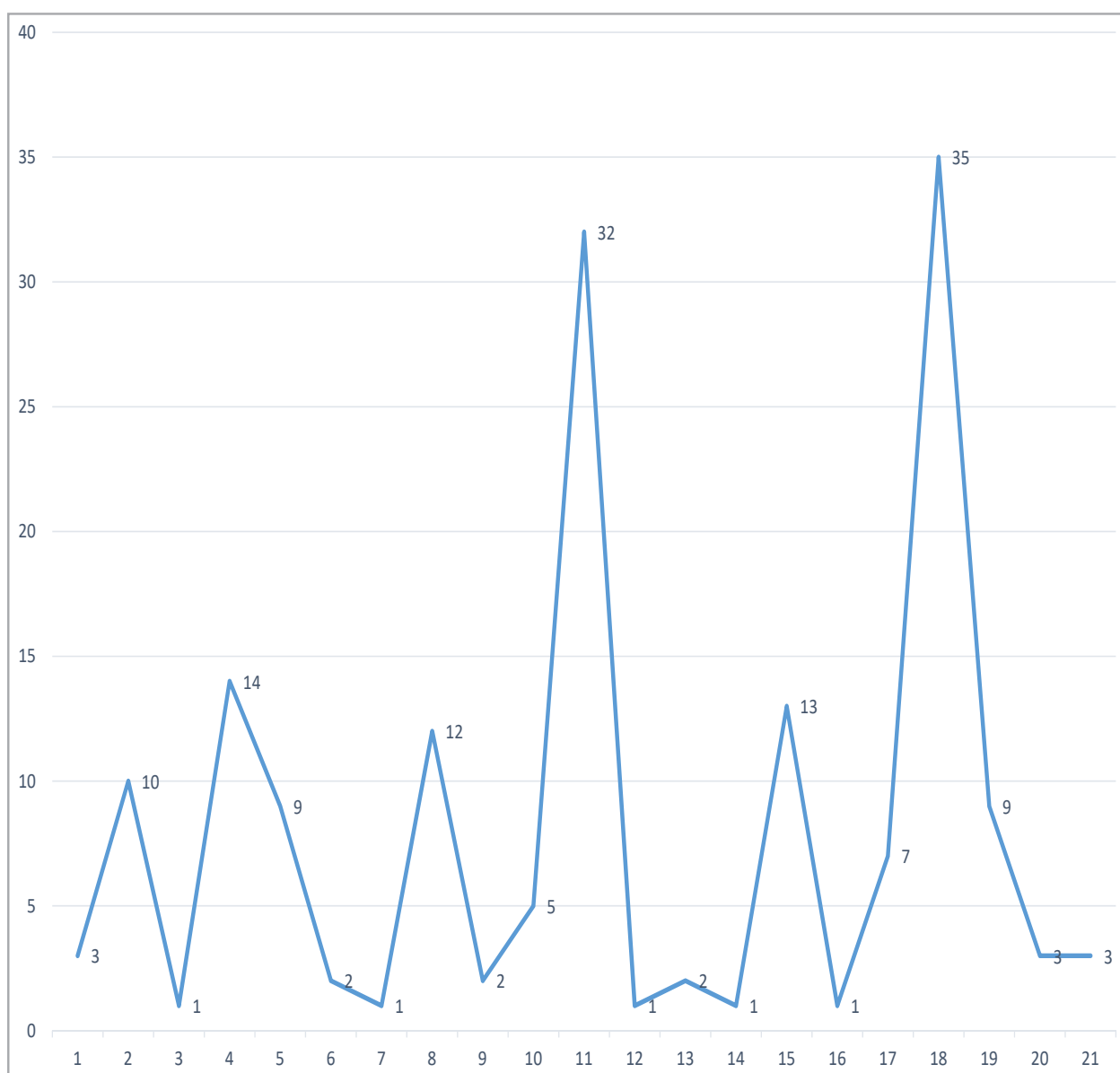
However, amidst the turmoil, positive steps were taken by the ruling BJP. The BJP government decided not to field candidates with a history of controversial remarks or hate speech targeting minorities for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. The BJP has opted out Anantkumar Hegde, a six-time MP, following uproar over his contentious remarks regarding the Constitution. Hegde's suggestion to amend the Constitution stirred controversy, leading the BJP to disassociate from leaders prone to such remarks. Despite Hegde's efforts, the party instead chose other candidate, reflecting their stance against hate speech. This decision aligns with the denial of tickets to MPs like Pragya Singh Thakur, Ramesh Bidhuri, and Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma. This action reflect the party's proactive approach and commitment to distancing from divisive rhetoric.

Likewise, Telangana BJP leader T Raja Singh and Naresh Nile have been accused of inciting religious violence in Mira Road on February 25, resulting in communal tension following previous clashes. A petition filed in the Bombay High Court led to the registration of an FIR against them under sections 153A, 188, 295A, and 34 of the Indian Penal Code, prompting positive action from the court to address hate speech and its potential consequences. This decision, coupled with legal actions against individuals inciting religious violence, reflects a commitment to curbing divisive rhetoric and promoting communal harmony.

Moving forward, it is imperative for authorities to conduct thorough investigations into hate crimes, prosecute perpetrators, and implement measures to prevent further escalations of communal tensions. Immediate support should be extended to affected communities to ensure justice, uphold human rights, and restore a sense of security within society. Fostering harmony and understanding among diverse communities remains paramount. Citizens are urged to stand united against hatred and violence, advocating for a society that embraces diversity and upholds the principles of peace and coexistence. Together, we can build a nation where every individual feels safe, valued, and included.

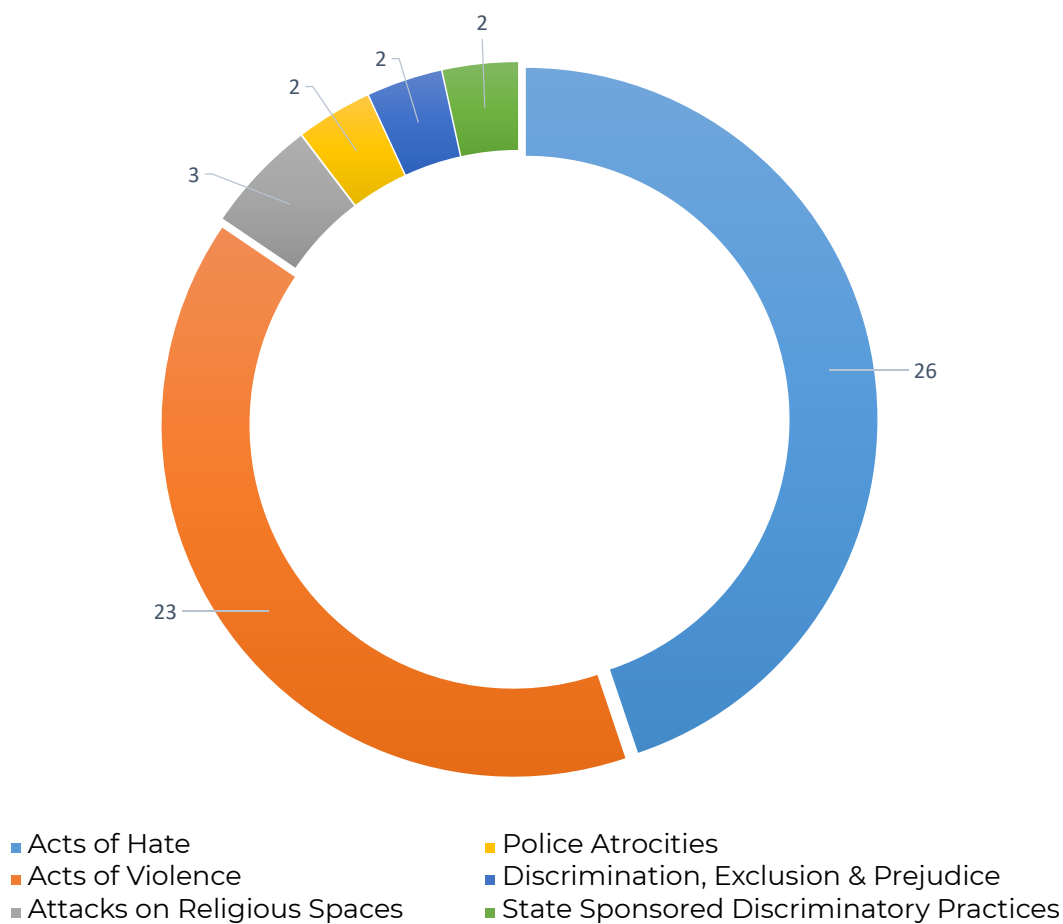
Mahmood Asád Madani  
Director, JEM

## Trends of Hate Crime Cases during January - March 2024



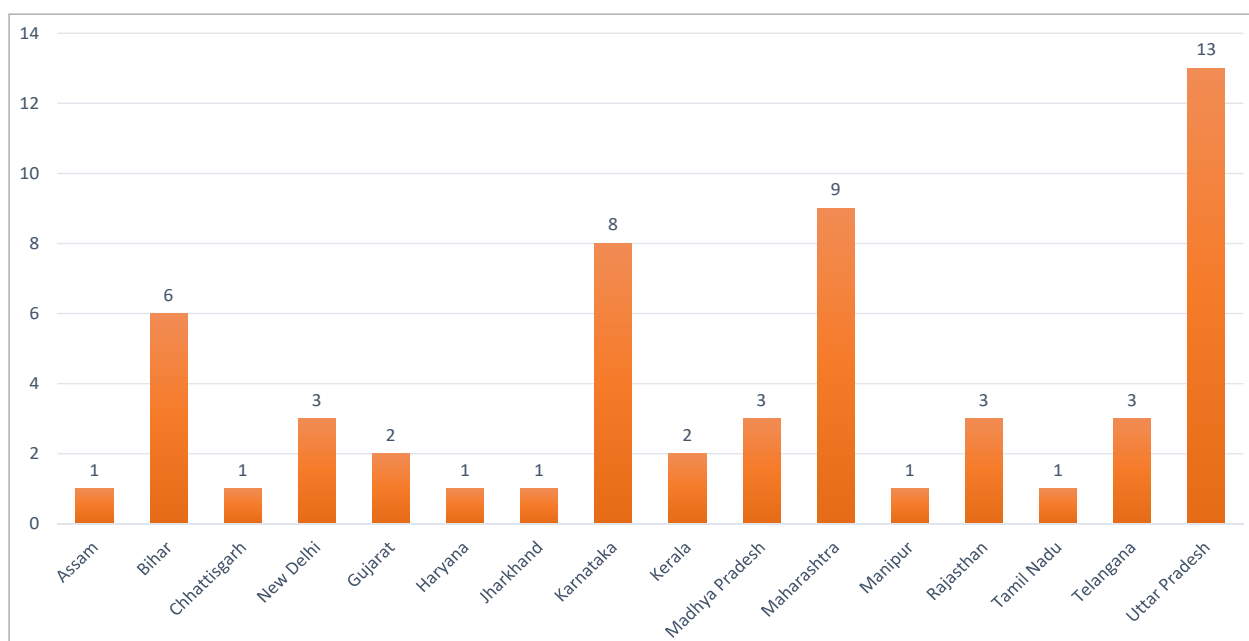


## A total of 58 Category-wise Hate Crime cases in January 2024



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## State-wise Hate Crime Cases reported in January 2024





## 8 Hate Crime and Hate Speech Cases reported in January 2024

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, [The Print](#) reported that three individuals linked to the BJP IT Cell, identified as Kunal Pandey, Saksham Patel, and Anand alias Abhishek Chauhan, were apprehended on charges related to the alleged gang-rape of a Dalit student at IIT-BHU, Banaras, Uttar Pradesh, on November 2, 2023. The survivor positively identified the suspects through CCTV footage on November 5. The accused, who have Facebook profiles showcasing pictures alongside prominent BJP leaders, are now facing charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the IT Act.

Simultaneously, in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar, members affiliated with the Hindu Mahasabha were involved in an incident reported by [The Caravan](#). They attempted to install a Sarasvati idol in the Kamal Maula Masjid, claiming it manifested spontaneously. This event drew parallels with historical tensions, notably the Babri Masjid incident in 1949. The situation in Dhar reflects a broader trend of Hindutva mobilization, with Hindu groups asserting claims over religious sites, leading to ongoing standoffs.





In New Delhi, on the same day, a case of hate speech came to light as reported by [Deccan Herald](#). RSS leader Indresh Kumar, during an event organized for the launch of the book “Ram Mandir, Rashtra Mandir - A Common Heritage,” urged Muslims to recite ‘Shri Ram, Jai Ram, Jai Jai Ram’ at their places of worship during the upcoming consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Kumar emphasized the shared ancestry of people in India and encouraged individuals from all religious backgrounds to actively participate, expressing prayers for peace and harmony.

Tragically, the day also witnessed a disturbing incident in Dhanaura village, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, where an 18-year-old Dalit girl suffered severe burns. According to [The Times of India](#), an 18-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly pushed into boiling sugarcane juice by a 22-year-old man and two accomplices after she resisted molestation attempts at a jaggery unit. Suffering 50% burns, the victim was transported to Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital in Delhi. The assault occurred in Dhanaura village, leading to the arrest of the main accused, the owner of the unit, and an accomplice on charges including assault, intentional insult, attempt to murder, and relevant sections of the SC/ST Act.

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, a violent and tragic incident unfolded in Lilong Chingjao, a Meitei Pangal (Muslim) area in Thoubal district, Manipur, as reported by [The](#)



*Print.* Armed miscreants, disguised in police uniforms and arriving in four vehicles, initiated a brutal attack. The assailants opened fire, resulting in four fatalities and leaving 14 individuals injured. In response to the escalating situation, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Valley districts. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appealed for calm, pledging government intervention to identify and prosecute those responsible for the heinous assault.

Concurrently, *The New Indian Express* yet another distressing case of violence in Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, on the same day. A 25-year-old Dalit man named P Muthu Perumal was brutally hacked to death by three individuals from a dominant caste. The reported motive behind the gruesome murder was Perumal's relationship with a woman from the dominant community, escalating longstanding conflicts between the two groups.

In Karnataka, specifically Shivamogga city, *Muslim Mirror* reported an instance of anti-Muslim hate speech on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senior BJP leader KS Eshwarappa stirred controversy by asserting that the Ayodhya mosque, described as a symbol of 'slavery,' was demolished to make way for the Ram temple, which he characterized as a manifestation of Hindu self-esteem. Eshwarappa's comments, including plans to build a Sri Krishna temple in Mathura and suggesting similar actions in Kashi, ignited debates surrounding their religious and political implications.



Meanwhile, in Bhadurpur, Nawada, Bihar, [HindutvaWatch](#) reported another disturbing incident of hate speech on the same day. Muslim men faced harassment and verbal abuse from Hindu extremists solely based on their religious identity, shedding light on an alarming trend of religious-based discrimination and hostility in the region.

[NDTV](#) reported another distressing incident occurred on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, this time from Belanganj, Agra, Uttar Pradesh. A 25-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped and strangled by Uttar Pradesh Police Constable Raghvendra Singh in his rented room. Her lifeless body was discovered hanging from the ceiling on December 29, 2023. The police promptly arrested Constable Raghvendra Singh, who is stationed in Agra, in connection with the murder. He has been charged under sections 306, 376, and the SC/ST Act of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, [The Indian Express](#) reported another incident of potentially divisive rhetoric from Thane district, Maharashtra, India. According to the Express report, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, addressing the “Malanggad Harinam Mahotsav” in Thane district, expressed a commitment to the “liberation” of Haji Malang Dargah. This religious site, located on a hill south of Kalyan, has been a source of contention between right-wing groups, who assert it as a Hindu temple (Malanggad), and its historical identity as a Sufi shrine named after Haji Abd-ul-Rahman, also known as Haji Malang Baba. The statement adds to the ongoing debate surrounding the site’s religious and cultural significance.





*Hindustan Times* reported a case of physical assault against a Dalit individual from Geramaaradi village in the Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The incident occurred following an alleged assault on Maruthi, a 34-year-old Dalit man, on New Year's Day. The residents of Golla Street reportedly attacked Maruthi after a cable was cut by his JCB. The situation escalated when the protesters attempted to enter a village temple, resulting in tension. However, the intervention of elders and the police helped diffuse the situation. The police have filed cases against 30-35 individuals under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Atrocities on SC/ST Act.

The web portal *edexLive*, on the same day, reported an incident of discrimination and exclusion from Hyderabad, Telangana. Dr. J Padmaja, a PhD holder, has been engaged in a protest for over 50 days, accusing Osmania University (OU) of caste and gender discrimination. The allegations include biased PhD admissions, harassment, and sexual harassment during her research. Despite having completed her PhD, Dr. Padmaja claims to be facing ongoing discrimination, incidents of police custody, and attacks orchestrated by the university. The situation sheds light on the persistence of issues related to discrimination within academic institutions.

In addition, *The Siasat Daily* reported another disturbing incident, this time involving a case of physical assault from Bharuch district, Gujarat on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.





A young man named Aslam was brutally attacked by cow vigilantes associated with far-right groups in the region. The assailants accused him of transporting cattle. Aslam suffered severe injuries and was allegedly abandoned in the jungles before being taken to a hospital. The latest updates suggest that Aslam is in critical condition, highlighting the alarming consequences of vigilante actions.

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On January 4<sup>th</sup>, [Maktoob Media](#) reported a distinctive incident of anti-Muslim propaganda from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. According to the Maktoob report, two Hindu individuals, Tahar Singh and Omprakash Mishra, were apprehended by the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force in Lucknow for disseminating a fake bomb threat on social media. The threat specifically targeted Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Ayodhya's Ram temple. The suspects utilized fake Muslim email accounts, 'alamansarikhan608@gmail.com' and 'zubairkhanisi199@gmail.com,' to send the threatening messages. The arrest brings attention to the misuse of online platforms for spreading threats, and notably, the individuals involved were residents of Gonda and worked in a paramedical institute.

[The Hindu](#), the same day, reported another distressing incident, this time involving a physical attack against a Dalit man from Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka. The assault allegedly occurred when the Dalit man entered a temple on January 1, 2024. Subsequently, temples across Gollarahatti, Gerumaradi village, Tarikere taluk, Karnataka, were closed in response to the incident. The alleged assault led



to the filing of a police case under the SC-ST Act, and one person was arrested in connection with the attack. The Golla community in the area reportedly follows a tradition of not allowing Dalit entry into the temples and conducts purification rituals afterward. This incident draws parallels with a 2019 case involving Union Minister A. Narayanaswamy, who was denied entry due to his Dalit identity.

Web portal *The Mooknayak* reported an incident of discrimination against a Dalit scientist. Dalit scientist Arti Harle, associated with CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), alleges experiencing caste discrimination, mental harassment, and financial distress from Pune, Maharashtra on January 4<sup>th</sup>. In an Instagram reel, Harle claims that she has been unfairly denied promotion and her salary has been stopped since November 2020, pushing her to contemplate a fast unto death. She points to systematic denial of resources, discrimination in teaching responsibilities, and a lack of intervention from higher authorities. Harle, facing severe financial strain and the possibility of homelessness, has made a desperate plea for justice, which remains unanswered by NCL as of the publication date.

Additionally, *Hindustan Times* on same day reported another incident where a Dalit man named Hanumantha (28) and his sister-in-law were assaulted by upper-caste individuals in Kolar district, Karnataka. The assault occurred when Hanumantha requested repayment of a ₹50,000 loan given three years ago. The disagreement led to an attack by around 10 people, resulting in serious injuries.



A complaint against ten individuals has been filed at Nangali police station. Five of them have been arrested, while the others are reportedly absconding. The charges include violations of the SC/ST Act and various IPC sections related to unlawful assembly, rioting, insult, threat to life, and assault with a weapon. The arrested accused have been remanded to judicial custody, and efforts are ongoing to apprehend the remaining accused.

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On January 5<sup>th</sup>, [Clarion India](#) reported an incident of physical attack against a Muslim man from Badaun, Uttar Pradesh. The Muslim youth was allegedly tortured by the police on suspicion of cow slaughter, later revealed to be a case of mistaken identity. Social activist Kashif Arsalan exposed the incident, claiming inhumane treatment, including inserting a stick and electric shocks. The victim, a 22-year-old vegetable vendor, was reportedly beaten overnight. After realizing the mistake, the police released him after two days, providing Rs 100. The victim suffered continuous seizures, with medical reports indicating asthma-related seizures. Senior Superintendent of Police O.P. Singh has ordered a thorough investigation, assigning Dataganj police official Prem Kumar Thapa for the inquiry.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, [The Observer Post](#) reported an incident of police atrocity from Mecca Masjid area, Hindpiri, Jharkhand. A 12-year-old Madrassa student, Huzaifa Imtiyaz, was allegedly physically assaulted and verbally abused by police officials, SI Ajay





Kumar, and Doctor Ajay. While on his way to a Quran Khwaani ceremony, Imtiyaz was forcibly taken into the police station, where he faced mistreatment. The police officers reportedly labeled them terrorists and subjected them to verbal abuse.

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, [Amar Ujala](#) reported a case of Islamophobia from Deoband, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. In Deoband, Vikas Tyagi, the regional coordinator of Bajrang Dal, filed a complaint accusing Darul Uloom, an Islamic educational institution, of encroaching on government land and engaging in unauthorized construction. The complaint alleges the unlawful occupation of approximately 500 meters of government land along State Highway with survey. Responding to the complaint, District Magistrate Dr. Dinesh Chandra directed SDM Ankur Verma to halt construction and issued a notice to Darul Uloom, demanding clarification by January 10, 2024.

[Deccan Herald](#) reported that an FIR has been filed against BJP MLA Nitesh Rane, Telangana legislator T Raja Singh, and others for alleged hate speeches during a 'Hindu January Aakrosh' rally in Solapur, Maharashtra the same day. The rally, attended by leaders of the Sakal Hindu Samaj, featured Rane discussing 'jihadis' and mosque demolitions, while Singh reportedly made objectionable statements on 'love jihad.' The FIR also includes Sakal Hindu Samaj office bearer Sudhakar Mahadev Bahirwade and others.





On the same day, [Scroll.in](#) reported an incident of anti-Muslim hatred from OP Jindal University in Haryana. An FIR was filed against Prof. Sameena Dalwai, accusing her of harming the dignity of women and discriminating against students based on religious and ideological grounds. The controversy arose from a September 23 lecture on dating where Dalwai projected a dating app, causing discomfort among some students. Dalwai, who is Muslim, faced criticism on social media for her identity and political beliefs. She received support from over 500 academicians, including political scientist Achin Vanaik, historians Ramachandra Guha, Tanika Sarkar, and lawyer Lawrence Liang. Critics accused the Haryana Women's Commission of a politically motivated investigation, and the University of neglecting due process.

Besides, [The Week](#) reported incendiary remarks targeting Muslims while talking about the construction of the Ram Mandir. Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya, former Bajrang Dal president, views the Ram Mandir movement as surpassing the freedom struggle, attributing it to Lord Ram's significance in Indian hearts on January 7. Reflecting on the historical context dating back to 1528, he expresses joy at the temple's foundation stone-laying ceremony and recalls the spontaneous events of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1992, attributing the demolition to divine intervention. Proud of his contribution, Pawaiya emphasizes the movement's significance and hopes for the future.



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*The Hindu* reported communal tension from Sri Siddeshwar Temple in Vijayapura, Belagavi, Karnataka. Tension arose as Hindutva activists attempted to display a banner seeking a ban on Muslim vendors during the temple's annual fair. The Sri Siddeshwar Society office-bearers thwarted the activists and removed the banner. The banner accused Muslim vendors of engaging in cow slaughter and Love Jihad, urging Hindus to avoid business relationships with them. Previously, a Hindu activist federation had appealed to BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and the jatra committee to exclude Muslim vendors from the fair. Yatnal is yet to respond to the plea.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, *The Indian Express* reported a state-sponsored discriminatory practice from Kozhikode, Kerala. Six student activists from Farook College, affiliated with the Fraternity Movement, were arrested and later released on bail for putting up pro-Palestine posters at a Starbucks outlet. The students displayed posters reading "Free Palestine" and "Caution, contents may fund genocide." The incident followed global calls to boycott Starbucks in protest against Israel's actions in Gaza. Starbucks responded, attributing actions against its outlets to misrepresentation on social media and affirming their stance for humanity.

*New Indian Express* reported controversial remarks made by BJP leader KS Eshwarappa from Belagavi, Karnataka. Eshwarappa stirred controversy by suggesting that Muslims should voluntarily vacate mosques believed to have



been built on disputed or demolished temple lands in Belagavi on the same day. Addressing a Hindu workers' convention, the former Deputy Chief Minister warned of potential consequences if Muslims did not adhere to his request. Eshwarappa referred to pending court verdicts on contested lands, including those in Mathura, and emphasized that temples would be either willingly vacated by Muslims or potentially face demolition by devotees of Lord Rama.

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On January 9<sup>th</sup>, *The Free Press Journal* covered an event in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, organized by Hindutva organizations. The Shree Akhand Vedant Sant Sammelan took place, where young girls participated in a pledge against 'love jihad.' A video of the event gained traction on social media, depicting the girls making a commitment not to marry outside their religion. They expressed their determination to safeguard their beliefs, culture, and religion with unwavering resolve.

*English Jagran* reported another incident of contentious statement made by Harish Poonja, a BJP MLA from Udipi, Karnataka. Poonja sparked controversy by suggesting during a religious event in Belthangady taluk on January 7 that Hindus should have more children to prevent Muslims from becoming a majority in India. Poonja expressed concern about the current birth rate trend, stating that if it continues, the Hindu population might decrease to 20 crore, while the Muslim population could potentially rise to 80 crore.





On January 10<sup>th</sup>, [English Jagran](#) reported another development concerning state-sponsored measures in Uttar Pradesh. The Uttar Pradesh government's decision to discontinue additional honorarium for teachers under the Madarsa Modernisation Scheme is in line with the Centre's decision. This move impacts around 25,000 teachers who were hired to teach various subjects in madaras across the state. The decision has raised concerns among teachers, and the Minister of State for Minority Welfare has assured that a resolution to the issue will be addressed soon.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, [Clarion India](#) reported a case of physical violence against Muslims in Madhya Pradesh's Shajapur district. According to the news, targeted attacks by Hindutva forces on the Muslim minority community were reported. However, concerns were raised over the administration's one-sided step, as it unilaterally demolished Muslim houses. Accompanied by a substantial police force, the administration reportedly bulldozed the residence of Rahim Patel, who was accused of orchestrating a stone-pelting incident during the Ram Shyam Yatra. The lack of a prior hearing or legal procedure adds to the apprehensions. Calls for fair trials and transparent investigations echo as the situation unfolds.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, [Hindustan Times](#) reported a case of state-sponsored discriminatory practice from Assam. The Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, announced the implementation of a modified Uniform Civil Code (UCC)





in the state. According to the report, Assam aims to become the third state in India, following Uttarakhand and Gujarat, to introduce the UCC, with specific exemptions for the tribal community. Sarma emphasized the need for innovation in the UCC model, with a focus on addressing issues such as child marriages and polygamy.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January, [Amar Ujala](#) reported Karni Sena workers have been arrested by the police for cow slaughter in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. The accused were allegedly involved in collecting extortion money by throwing cow remains in other people's fields after the slaughter. Two individuals involved in the incident are currently absconding, prompting an ongoing police search. The news coverage source is not specified. Karni Sena officials have been arrested, while efforts are underway to locate and apprehend two additional suspects who are currently absconding.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, [Deccan Herald](#) reported an incident in Banaskantha, Gujarat, where a truck driver named Bachal Khan (37) was arrested for allegedly offering namaz on the side of a busy road without permission. The event came to light after a video went viral on social media, depicting Khan praying in front of his parked truck on a busy crossroad near Palanpur city. The Palanpur (west) police station registered a case against Khan under sections 283, 186, and 188 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), pertaining to endangering public safety, obstructing a public servant, and disobedience to orders.



On 15<sup>th</sup> January, [Hindustan Times](#) reported another incident of hate speech from Kumta, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka. As per the report, MP Anant Kumar Hegde gave controversial statement on the destruction of Bhatkal's Chinnada Palli mosque. Hegde, undeterred by backlash, asserted Hindu community's resolve to reclaim converted structures. The timing aligns with Ram Temple's inauguration prep. Hegde's return to the spotlight amid health rumors adds intrigue. CM Siddaramaiah criticized Hegde's statement, and Home Minister Parameshwara emphasized zero tolerance for peace disruption in the state. A case has been filed against BJP MP Anant Kumar Hegde under IPC Section 153(A).

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, [Aajtak](#) reported an inflammatory statement made by the controversial hate preacher Yati Narasimhanand Saraswati during a Sanatan Dharma Sabha organized by Sanatan Hindu Seva Sansthan in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. Narasimhanand called on Hindus to produce more children during the religious gathering led by Annapurna Bharti. Various Hindu leaders, including Narasimhanand, Basic Education Minister Sandeep Singh, MLC Manvendra Pratap Singh, and MLC Rishipal Singh, were present at the event. Saraswati emphasized the need for Hindus to have more children as a measure to protect their homes, the Ram temple, and themselves, expressing concerns about the future. He also made predictions about the Prime Minister of India becoming a Muslim by 2034 and shared views on the potential consequences for the Hindu community. The remarks have sparked controversy and raised questions about the propagation of divisive narratives in public discourse.



On January 17<sup>th</sup>, [Zee Salam](#) reported a disturbing incident of a physical attack against Muslim youths in Aurangabad, Bihar. According to the news, four Muslim youths from Japla, Jharkhand, were brutally beaten to death in a case of mob lynching. The incident occurred when five youths were standing with their car at Kesariya turn, and a firing incident took place, triggering the anger of the crowd. Subsequently, the mob attacked the five individuals, resulting in the death of four of them. One of the victims, identified as Mohit Sharma, revealed his name, leading the mob to spare him. The incident raises serious concerns about the safety and security of individuals and underscores the need for addressing such acts of violence.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, [Hindutvawatch](#) shared details of an anti-Muslim event organized in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. The program, led by right-wing leaders, took a disturbing turn as they engaged in spreading fear against the Muslim community. The event, held in Khurja, witnessed the dissemination of inflammatory rhetoric, raising concerns about communal harmony in the region. The incident underscores the need for vigilance and efforts to promote understanding and tolerance among different communities.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, a disturbing incident unfolded in Punardarpur, a locality situated within the Goreyakothi Assembly Constituency No. 111 of Bihar's Siwan district. An anti-Muslim song posted on [social media](#) led to tensions in the Muslim-dominated area known as Miya Ke Na Dal Gali. The provocative song,





titled “Hindu ke Raj Chali,” with communal undertones, incited concerns about communal harmony. The incident allegedly instigated Muslims in the locality, raising fears of potential communal unrest. The situation highlights the impact of provocative content on social media and the need for measures to prevent the escalation of tensions along communal lines.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, a disturbing incident occurred at the boys’ hostel of Pranveer Singh Institute of Technology in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, as reported by [India Today](#). A group of students allegedly engaged in the abusive chanting of “Jai Shri Ram” while simultaneously using derogatory language against Allah. The incident has sparked outrage, especially among Muslim students, who claim that no substantial action has been taken in response to their grievances. The situation underscores the importance of addressing religious sensitivity on educational campuses and ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

On the same day, [tindposting.com](#) reported another incident of communal tension from Bihar’s Darbhanga district. A procession celebrating the inauguration of the Ram temple at the Pathra graveyard in Darbhanga took a distressing turn as the graveyard caught fire. The incident occurred amidst the festivities at Khirma Panchayat, leading to a significant and unfortunate incident.





In addition, [Waquar Hasan](#) shared a disturbing episode on January 22<sup>nd</sup> of communal unrest when a mob, brandishing saffron flags, gathered in front of a mosque to perform a dance in Telangana's Sangareddy area. The incident, captured in a video shared on his social media handle, has raised concerns about the potential for heightened tensions and underscores the need for immediate intervention to maintain communal harmony. Additionally, a fruit seller shop owned by a Muslim was reportedly set on fire during the unrest, further highlighting the severity of the situation.

Simultaneously, the [Observerpost](#) X account shared a video depicting communal tensions that erupted in Jaitpur, Delhi. Hindu groups allegedly raised objectionable slogans, vandalized a Muslim locality, and engaged in scuffles with local residents. The incident has heightened concerns about communal harmony in the area and underscores the need for immediate intervention to prevent further escalation. The video captures the intensity of the situation, emphasizing the importance of addressing such incidents promptly to maintain peace in the community.

[The Indian Express](#) reported another incident of an attack on a mosque in Tajganj, Agra, Uttar Pradesh the same day. Agra police arrested eleven individuals, including Sunny (24) and Himanshu (19), for hoisting saffron flags atop a mosque during a shobha yatra in Tajganj. The incident, which marked the opening of the



Ram temple in Ayodhya, was captured in a viral video showing the group forcibly entering the Shahi Masjid and raising saffron flags. An FIR, filed based on the mosque caretaker Zahir Uddin's complaint, cites charges under IPC sections 147, 148, 452, and 505(2).

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, *The Observerpost X* handle reported a distressing incident in Mumbai, Maharashtra, where Muslim women alleged harassment by a mob chanting #JaiShriRam. Reports suggest that the police took no immediate action, adding to the grievances of the victims. Locals claim that Hindu groups stoked tensions by chanting slogans such as 'Bharat mein rehna hoga Jai Shri Ram kehna hoga' near mosques, further contributing to the atmosphere of unease. The incident underscores the need for swift action to address such cases of harassment and maintain communal harmony in the city.

*The Wire* reported another disturbing incident on January 23<sup>rd</sup> that was unfolded in Sheetal Naga, Mira Road, Maharashtra, where a mob allegedly looted ₹2 lakh in cash from a shop and vandalized Nagori Tea Shop. The perpetrators reportedly targeted the shop owner based on his attire, wearing a 'topi' (skullcap) and Kurta Pyjama. The incident has raised concerns about targeted violence and the safety of individuals based on their appearance. Such incidents underscore the need for efforts to promote tolerance and discourage violence based on religious or cultural identity.





On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, *The Observerpost X* handle shared a concerning post involving a controversial statement against Muslims. An Instagram user, Mbalniki, a self-proclaimed BJP supporter, is seen abusing “Allah and Muslims” through reels. A resident of Patna, Bihar, Mbalniki, with over 1600 followers, has used derogatory language against Muslims following the Ram Mandir construction event.

Simultaneously, *The Observerpost X* account recorded another distressing incident of physical attack and vandalism in Yashodhara Nagar, Nagpur, Maharashtra. Hindu extremists allegedly entered a Muslim family’s home, engaging in vandalism and physical assault. The attackers reportedly caused extensive damage to the house and left several family members seriously injured.

On the same day, *The Quint* reported a series of disturbing incidents leading to communal tension and violence in Mira Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Extremist mobs have persistently targeted Muslims and their properties, as reported by local residents. In response to the escalating situation, the police, along with riot control and rapid action forces, have set up barricades in Naya Nagar. To address the incidents and restore peace, 13 individuals have been arrested for their alleged involvement in disturbing the peace. The situation underscores the need for swift and decisive action to maintain communal harmony and ensure the safety of residents in the area.





Additionally, on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, *The Indian Express* reported a case of religious desecration leading to an attack on a mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district. Three individuals with radical motivations were arrested for replacing a mosque's green flag with a saffron flag while chanting provocative slogans like "Jai Shri Ram." The accused, identified as Ankit Katheria, Rohit Joshi, and Rohit Saxena (all 20), face charges under IPC Section 295. In a separate incident in the same district, four individuals are under suspicion for the desecration of a saffron flag in the Katra area, raising doubts about their involvement. The incidents highlight the need to address religious desecration and maintain communal harmony in the region.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, *The Wire* reported a state-sponsored discriminatory practice from Rajasthan's Jaipur, where the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, under the leadership of Education Minister Madan Dilawar, issued a directive to all government schools in the state. The directive mandated the organization of collective performances of the Surya Namaskar, a traditional Hindu sun salutation, on the occasion of Surya Saptami scheduled for February 15. The directive required the participation of students, teachers/staff, parents, and local villagers, raising concerns about the imposition of religious practices in educational institutions.



On January 25<sup>th</sup>, the web portal [Kamudi Online](#) reported a case of physical attack against a Muslim youth from Sangareddy, Telangana. The incident involved the brutal assault, parading naked, and an attempt to set fire to the private parts of the Muslim youth. This horrifying act was in reaction to an alleged social media post where the youth posted a reel insulting the saffron flag and inserting the religious symbol “OM” inside his pants with a smile. The assaulted youth, in response, filed a complaint against the villagers for their brutal attack. However, as of the report, there is no information about any arrests being made. A case has been registered against the Muslim youth based on a complaint filed by villagers, accusing him of hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

On the same day, [Maktoob Media](#) reported a case of alleged state-sponsored discriminatory practices in Trivandrum, Kerala. The incident involved a 62-year-old Muslim activist, Muhammad Salim, widely known as Ottayal Salim, who conducted a lone demonstration against the demolition of Babri Masjid concurrent with the live telecast of the Ram Temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya. Draped in a black shirt, dhoti, and headscarf, Salim stood at Vazhimukku Junction in Athiyanloor village, brandishing a placard bearing the image of Babri Masjid. Using a megaphone, he addressed the public, expressing his protest. The Kerala Police responded by registering a case against Salim under IPC Section 153, which pertains to wantonly giving provocation with the intent to cause a riot.



The police asserted that Salim's speech during the demonstration was intended to foster enmity between two groups. The investigation into the case is being led by Sub-Inspector Sylus D of the Neyyattinkara police station.

Moreover, on January 25<sup>th</sup>, *Sabrang India* reported an incident of a mob attack in Pune, Maharashtra, at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) campus. Approximately 25 individuals, reportedly affiliated with extremist right-wing Hindutva groups, forcibly entered the campus. The incident occurred one day after the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The mob engaged in acts of vandalism, burning a banner inside the campus that bore the message 'Remember Babri, Death of Constitution.' Several students, including women, were assaulted during the attack. Mankap Nokwoham, the president of the FTIISA (Film & Television Institute of India Student Association), was reportedly brutally attacked. The institute filed an FIR against the mob, invoking sections of the Indian Penal Code related to unlawful assembly, rioting, causing hurt, trespassing, damage to property, and criminal intimidation.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, *The Muslim X* handle shared a video depicting a physical attack in Chhapra, Bihar. A Muslim boy was reportedly brutally beaten by a Hindutva fanatic, who forced the victim to shout slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" during the assault.





Furthermore, [News IndiaTC](#) shared a YouTube video depicting a mob lynching incident from Raipur district, Chhattisgarh on January 26. The video showed a Hindu mob reportedly beating Imam Saheb mercilessly in front of a police post, while raising objectionable slogans such as ‘Hindustan mein rehna hoga JSR kehna hoga.’ Shockingly, an FIR was registered against Imam Saheb, while no FIR was filed against the members of the Hindu mob involved in the assault.

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, [Maktoob Media](#) reported an incident of police brutality in Khatauli, district Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. The incident in question took place on January 16, 2024, involving the alleged killing of a 23-year-old Muslim man named Matin in Uttar Pradesh. According to the police, Matin was killed in a confrontation as he was supposedly involved in a car theft and attempted to shoot at them. However, Matin’s family disputes these claims, asserting that he was not involved in any theft and was unlawfully killed by the police. Despite the family’s efforts to seek justice, their filed police complaint challenging the authenticity of the encounter has not been officially registered. Instead, the police provided the family with a general diary report (GDR) receipt. The family insists that Matin’s death was the result of a fake encounter, highlighting the need for a thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding his demise.



On January 28<sup>th</sup>, *The Siyasat Daily* covered an incident of assault against a Christian couple, Vijayalakshmi and Ashok Chavan, in Bijapur district, Karnataka. According to the report, the couple fell victim to an assault perpetrated by a mob associated with Hindutva forces. The attackers accused them of engaging in forceful religious conversion, triggering a campaign against the couple on various social media platforms. In response to the assault, the victims promptly filed a complaint, resulting in the registration of a First Information Report (FIR). The FIR includes the names of individuals allegedly involved in the attack. The accused are now facing charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, encompassing offenses such as unlawful assembly, rioting, insulting a woman's modesty, causing hurt, criminal intimidation, among others.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, *Dalit Times* covered a disturbing incident involving a physical assault against a Dalit man in Warani, within the Ghasa police station area in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Bholi Ram, a 40-year-old tribal youth, was subjected to a brutal attack, resulting in his death. The assailants, identified as Mukesh Gurjar, Sohan, and Suraj, allegedly beat him with sticks and rods, accusing him of theft.



On January 30<sup>th</sup>, *The Wire* reported another instance of discriminatory practices allegedly endorsed by the state, this time occurring at Government Senior Secondary Girls School in Gangapol, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Muslim girls in Jaipur staged a protest in response to comments made by MLA ‘Baba’ Balmukund Acharya, who criticized the wearing of hijab during a Republic Day event at the aforementioned school. The MLA asserted that the hijab was detrimental to the school environment, leading to accusations of targeting Muslim students. In defense of their right to wear the hijab for educational purposes, the protesting girls expressed their dissent. Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph mentioned that the demonstrators submitted a memorandum to the district collector, and if any complaints are received, the police will conduct an investigation. As of the reporting, no First Information Report (FIR) had been lodged.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, *The Muslim X* handle account disseminated a distressing video from Byculla, Mumbai, Maharashtra, revealing a troubling incident. Hindu extremists forcibly halted two Muslim individuals, a 15-year-old Muslim girl, and her mother, upon noticing them wearing Dadi Topi. The extremists



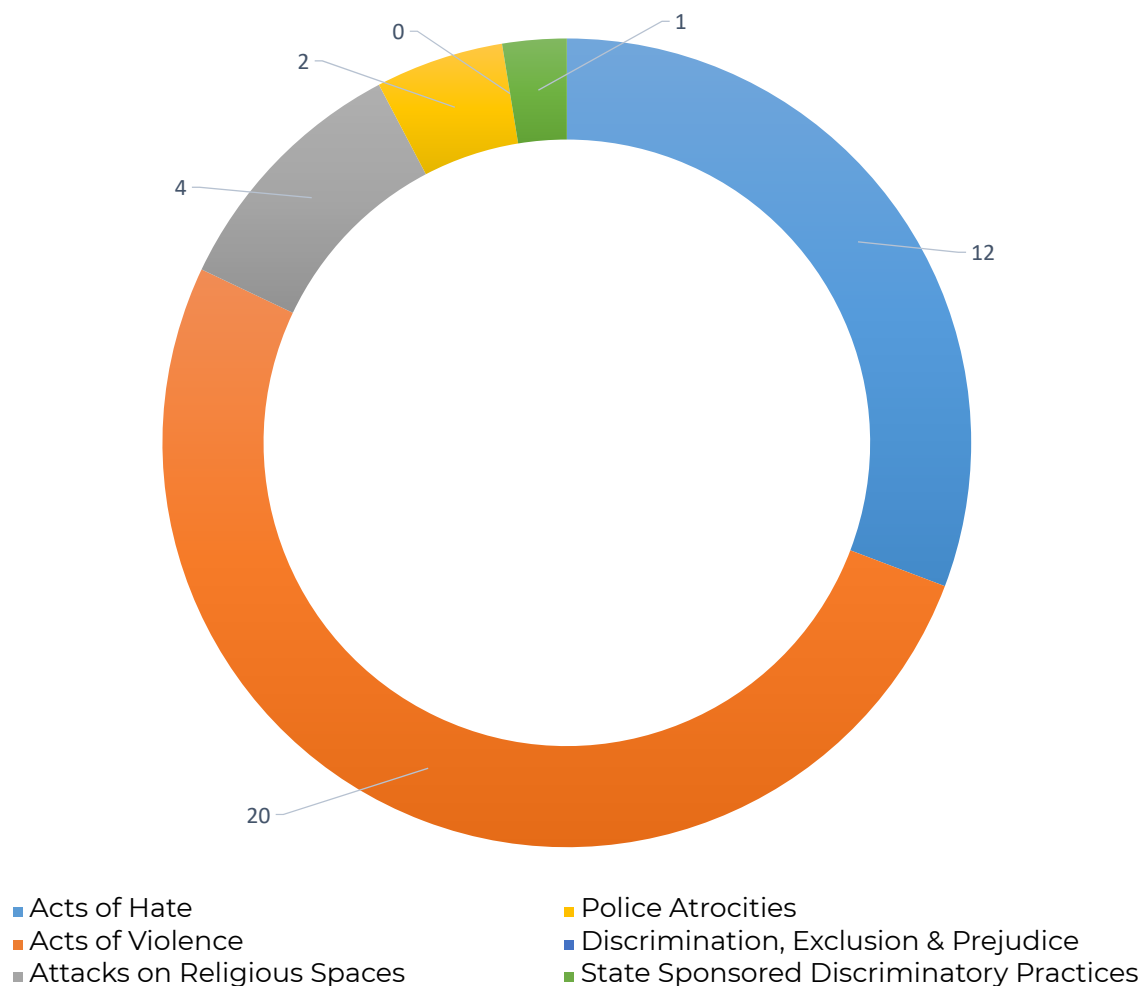


insisted that the victims chant “Jai Shri Ram” and proceeded to physically assault them.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, [Maktoob Media](https://maktoobmedia.com) reported an incident of state-sponsored discriminatory practice in Mehrauli, Delhi. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) conducted an arbitrary demolition of Masjid Akhonji, a mosque with a 600-year-old history. The mosque, which also housed Madrasa Bahrul Uloom and contained the graves of revered figures, was demolished at 6 am, just before the Azan for Fajr Namaz. Imam Zakir Hussain alleges that the demolition of the 600-year-old mosque in Mehrauli, Delhi, occurred without prior notice. According to him, officials, accompanied by the police, confiscated phones, hindered the retrieval of the Quran, and clandestinely removed debris to conceal the demolition.

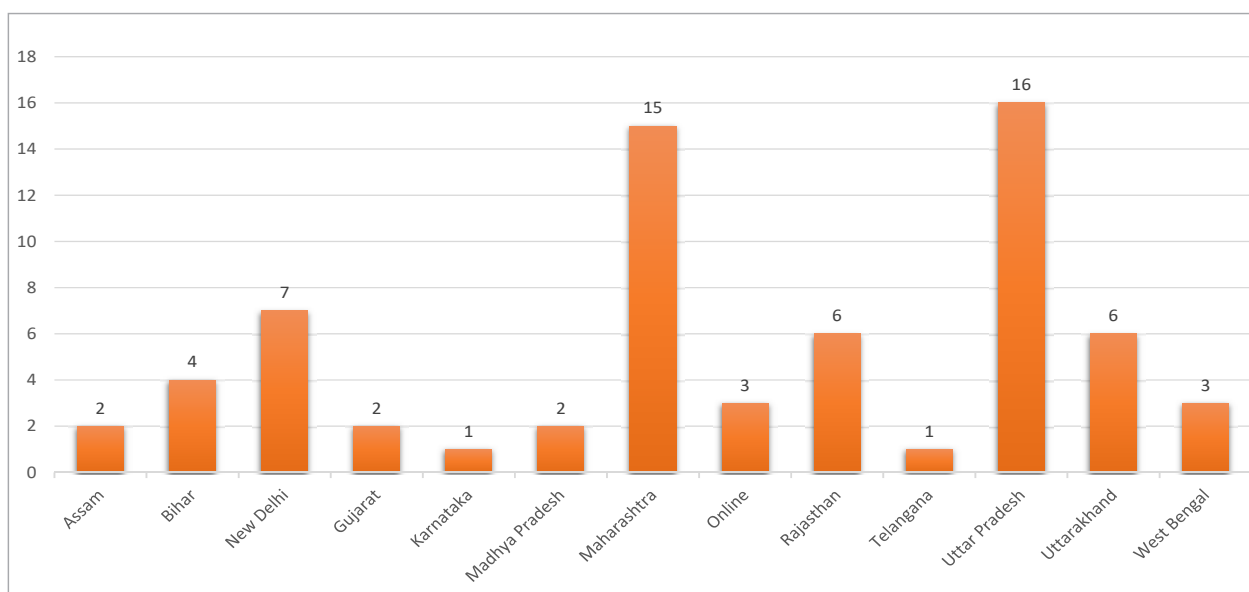


## A total of 69 Category-wise Hate Crime reported cases in February 2024



35

## State-wise Hate Crime Cases reported in February 2024





## 36 Hate Crime and Hate Speech Cases reported in February 2024

On February 1<sup>st</sup> [Hate Detector](#) shared a video of a hate speech delivered in Kolhapur, Maharashtra by T. Raja Singh. He said while addressing the crowd, “If you want to shoot down Landon (Muslims), join Bajrang Dal. My youth is not the one who only rings bell in temple but also teaches lessons to these Jhandubam.”

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the [Indian Express](#) reported a strange case of anti-Muslim hatred from Chetrampur village, Moradabad district, Uttar Pradesh where four individuals, including Bajrang Dal leader Monu Bishnoi, were arrested for allegedly slaughtering cows to falsely implicate a Muslim man, Mehmood, in a fabricated case. The arrests came after investigations revealed a premeditated plot involving personal vendettas, with Bishnoi orchestrating the incidents to pressure the police and further unlawful activities.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, [Dainik Bhaskar](#) recorded another incident of Muslim hatred from Bhopal Railway station, Madhya Pradesh. A group of passengers about to visit Ayodhya for ‘Ram’s Darshan’ by train vandalized a book stall at Bhopal Railway Station for selling books on Mughal Emperors. Expressing dissatisfaction with the





content, the passengers, shouting “Jai Shri Ram,” tore up and threw the books, deeming them offensive to Hindus. Railway Police Force (RPF) intervened to stop the vandalism, and no injuries were reported. The book stall owner has not filed a police report.

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On 4<sup>th</sup> February, *The Observer post* reported an anti-Muslim hatred from Agra, Uttar Pradesh where a right-wing organization, Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, has filed a petition in the Agra court challenging the three-day ‘Urs’ event at the Taj Mahal, scheduled from 6 to 8. The court has accepted the petition, and the hearing is set for March 4. The petitioner objects not only to the celebration itself but also to the provision of free entry for the ‘Urs’ inside the iconic monument.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, *Deccan Herald* reported an incident of religious desecration from UP’s Banaras where a group of radically motivated individuals affiliated to the Hindu Samaj Party, a Right Wing organisation, pasted a temple sticker on Gyanvapi Mosque sign board. A case has been registered against the organisation on charges including inciting religious sentiments. The police have booked them under sections 153A, 505 (2) and 295 (A) of the Indian Penal Code.

On the same day, *The Muslim X* account shared a video in which the Hindu Mahasabha, has reportedly demanded restrictions on Friday prayers, seeking to



limit gatherings to 10 people in smaller mosques and 25 in larger ones. The group also allegedly called for the denial of prayer permissions in certain mosques and suggested the use of bulldozers for mosque demolition.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, an incident in Pandesara, Surat, Gujarat, has stirred controversy as Malun Rishi Rajput is accused of disrespecting Allah, the Quran, and Prophet Mohammad. The video shared by [The Muslim X](#) account has alleged that this act has hurt religious sentiments. Surprisingly, no legal action has been taken against the accused at this time.

Subsequently, on same day, a case reported by [News 18](#) Hindi highlights an attack on a religious site in Mehrauli, New Delhi. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is now under criticism for the demolition of the 900-year-old tomb of Baba Haji Rozbih, a revered Sufi saint considered one of the oldest saints in Delhi. The tomb, situated at the entrance of Qila Lal Kot, was removed on January 30 as part of DDA's initiative to clear religious structures within Sanjay Van.

Furthermore, another incident in Mehrauli, New Delhi, reported by [Live Mint](#), involves the demolition of the 600-year-old Akhoondji Masjid on January 30 by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). The DDA cited it as an “illegal construction,” prompting the Delhi High Court to order the maintenance of the status quo on the land.





In a recent report by [The Indian Express](#) on February 9<sup>th</sup>, Uttarakhand's Haldwani witnessed an outbreak of communal violence on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The unrest unfolded during a demolition drive targeting a mosque and madrasa, purportedly situated on Nazool land. This drive, part of a broader initiative addressing properties under Nagar Nigam and tackling traffic congestion, escalated into a chaotic scene marked by stone-pelting, vehicle arson, and the encirclement of a local police station. As tensions flared, Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami issued shoot-on-sight orders in response to the escalating violence. Prahlad Narayan Meena, the Senior Superintendent of Police, reported that the police utilized force to maintain safety amid the turmoil.

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, [The Observerpost](#) documented a distressing incident of physical assault in Kankavli, Maharashtra. Asif, a Muslim man, faced an attack by a Hindu mob for refusing to chant "Jai Shri Ram" while traveling with his family on a local train. The situation escalated further when approximately 200 men assaulted Asif's home two days later, underscoring the delicate circumstances prevailing in Maharashtra. Allegedly, the police failed to provide protection, leaving the family exposed to further threats. Despite filing an FIR on January 20 and reporting harassment to both train officials and railway police, Asif and his family continued to encounter intimidation. Shockingly, political leaders accompanying the attackers filed a complaint against Asif, turning the tables on the victim.

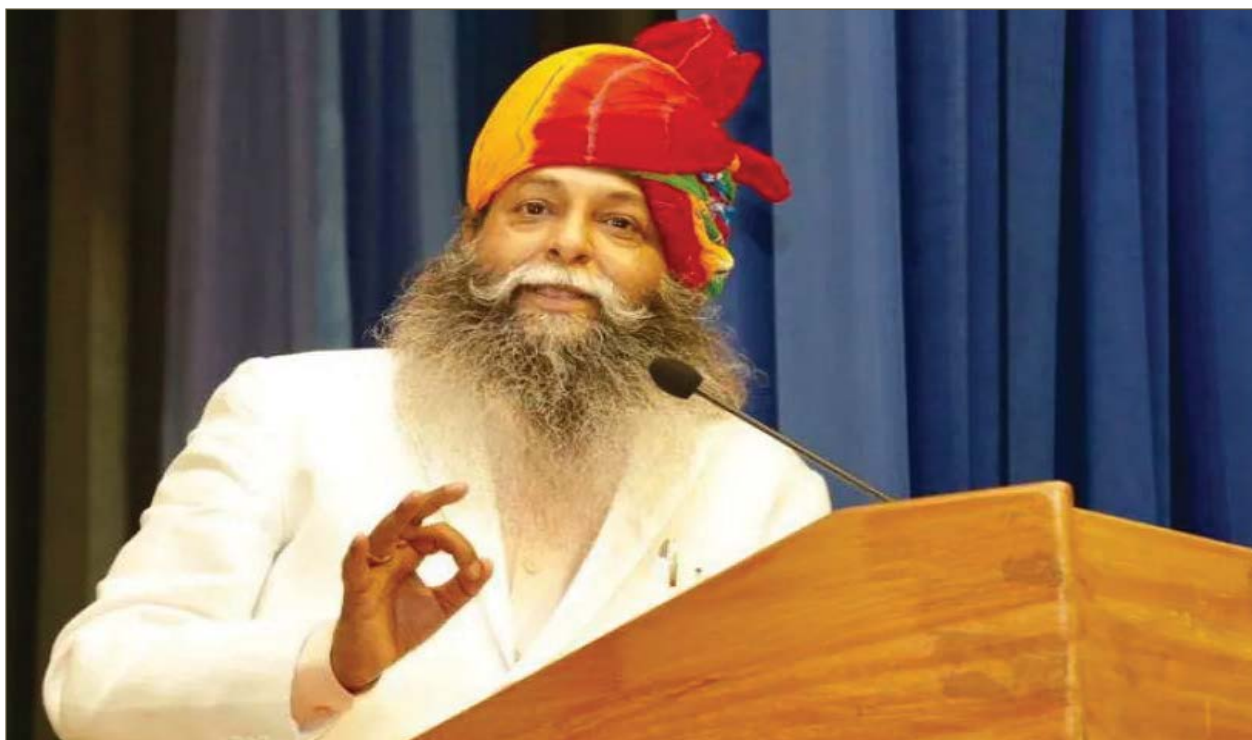




Simultaneously, on the same date, [Sabrang India](#) reported a disturbing incident of hate speech from Govandi, Mumbai, Maharashtra. BJP leader Nitish Rane purportedly led an anti-Muslim rally organized by Sakal Hindu Samaj, where participants were heard chanting derogatory slogans against the Muslim community. Rane, addressing the rally, allegedly encouraged disruptive actions against Muslims, promising protection and support if law enforcement intervened.

In another unsettling occurrence on February 11<sup>th</sup>, [Aurangabad Samachar](#) documented an anti-Muslim provocative speech from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. In the presence of the police, Manoj Kumar, a leader of the International Hindu Council, advocated for the extension of Hindu supremacy to Macca and Madina. Amidst a crowd, Kumar asserted ownership of the land and urged the government to implement a uniform civil code across India. This proposal, ostensibly aimed at safeguarding Hindu temples and preserving religious harmony, has sparked debates about the delicate balance between religious freedom and national unity.

On the same day, [The Muslim X](#) shared a video exposing hate speech from Nashik, Maharashtra. During the Sakal Hindu Samaj event in Nashik, Suresh Chavhanke, the owner of Sudarshan News, delivered a speech rife with anti-Muslim abuses. Chavhanke not only called for the boycott of Muslim barbers but also propagated conspiracy theories surrounding “business jihad” and “spit jihad.”



Additionally on February 11<sup>th</sup>, [News 24](#) reported controversial and hateful remarks against Muslims from Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. During the 5<sup>th</sup> foundation day celebration of Karni Sena, National President Suraj Pal Amu made threatening statements, promising severe consequences for those perceived as having ill intentions towards women. Amu also claimed responsibility for the demolition of Masjids in Mathura and Kashi, attributed to Mughal atrocities, and expressed plans to demolish another Masjids in Kashi. Additionally, he demanded the renaming of Aligarh to Harigarh. These incidents underscore the rising tensions and divisive rhetoric affecting various regions in India.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, [Scroll.in](#) reported disturbing instances of alleged police atrocities in Haldwani, Uttarakhand. According to locals, police officials forcefully entered homes, assaulted women, and detained several men. Shama, a 38-year-old cook at a local school, recounted the incident, stating, “Police officials broke into our house around 4 pm, thrashed our belongings, assaulted my husband, and took him away. We have no idea where he is.” Another victim, 22-year-old Mehreen, pleaded to meet her husband, Arif, taken away by police officials at 5 pm. The police contend that their actions are based on evidence and not arbitrary.

On the same date, [Hate Detector](#) recorded a video of an anti-Muslim rally in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Organized by members of the Bajrang Dal, the rally featured inflammatory songs promoting violence against Muslims. The crowd,



chanting provocative slogans, specifically targeted those accused of cow slaughter, issuing threats of violence.

In another incident reported by web portal [Aurangabad Samachar](#) on February 12<sup>th</sup>, a Muslim youth in Parbhani, Maharashtra, fell victim to physical attacks by members of Bajrang Dal and right-wing groups. The assaults, captured on video, involved forcing the victims to chant “Jai Shri Ram.” Cases have been registered against the individuals involved in these incidents.

On the same day, a video surfaced on [social media](#) from Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, where BJP leader Raghvendra Pratap Singh controversially called for the conversion of 32,000 mosques into Hindu temples.

[The Muslim X](#) handle shared yet another video on February 12<sup>th</sup>, this time from Jalna, Maharashtra. Influencers Harsh Thakur and Hindu Rashtra Sena chief Dhananjay Desai delivered hate speeches against Muslims during an event organized by a coalition of Hindu far-right organizations, including Sakal Hindu Samaj. These inflammatory remarks raised concerns about communal harmony in the region.

In Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on [February 12<sup>th</sup>](#), a viral video featured Manoj Kumar, a leader of the International Hindu Parishad, delivering a hate speech against Muslims at an event organized at Saraswati Vidya Mandir High School.





On the same day, [Nav Bharat Times](#) recorded a video of provocative slogans being raised in the Parliament of India by a sitting member of parliament from the NJP. MP Navneet Rana was seen making anti-Muslim statements, asserting that those wishing to live in India must chant Jai Shri Ram. These incidents collectively highlight an alarming trend of rising tensions and divisive rhetoric in various parts of the country.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, [Al Jazeera](#) brought attention to a case of police brutality in Haldwani, Uttarakhand. According to the report, a Muslim man named Zahid was purportedly shot, and in the aftermath of the shooting, he was subjected to severe beatings with sticks on his chest by the police, tragically leading to his untimely death. The gravity of the situation intensified when Zahid's son and driver tried to come to his aid, resulting in the police breaking the driver's hand.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, [The Daily Siasat](#) covered a Trishul Diksha event in the Khammam district of Telangana. Organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal in anticipation of the Lok Sabha Elections, the "Trishul Diksha" program aimed at fostering a positive environment for Hindus. Yadi Reddy, the VHP Telangana President, highlighted the event's focus on addressing concerns such as cow slaughter, temple destruction, and the perceived threat of love jihad against Hindu women. Reddy emphasized the significance of Trishul Diksha in promoting lifelong service to the nation and the establishment of 'Ram Rajya' in



Khammam. The event garnered enthusiastic participation from approximately 6,000 registered attendees representing 500 villages in the vicinity.

On the same date, [Hate Detector](#) reported an incident of hate speech on social media from Delhi. Jai Bhagwan Goyal, a BJP leader and President of Rashtrawadi Shiv Sena, allegedly made threatening remarks, drawing parallels to the Babri Mosque situation. Speaking at a gathering, Goyal warned Muslims to promptly hand over the Kashi and Mathura Masjids to Hindus or face consequences reminiscent of the Babri Mosque incident.

Furthermore, [Free Press Journal](#) reported an Islamophobic incident from Mumbai, Maharashtra, on the same date. Dr. AK Pathan, a senior oncologist, experienced religious discrimination when an InDrive cab driver demanded that he chant “Jai Shri Ram” to confirm a booking for an intercity trip from Mumbai to Nashik.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February, [Indian Express](#) reported a state sponsored discriminatory practice from New Delhi’s Dhaula Kuan. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has filed a plea to vacate a Delhi High Court order preventing coercive action against a mosque and graveyard in Dhaula Kuan, claimed to be a century old. However, the managing committee of the Shahi Masjid and Qabristan Kangal Shah, which had initially moved the high court, now faces the DDA’s application seeking to overturn the protective order.





On February 15<sup>th</sup>, *The Quint* brought attention to an incident of mental harassment involving a Muslim vendor in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Shoaib Ali found himself targeted after a group of women, led by right-wing activist Radha Semwal Dhoni, discovered his religious identity through a digital payment made at ‘The Jungle Juice Corner.’ This disturbing incident highlights a concerning trend wherein Muslim vendors face discrimination when their religious identity becomes known through payment or delivery applications.

Additionally, *The Print* highlighted a case of state-sponsored discriminatory practices in Khodiyar Kuva, Prantij town, Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. A fatal clash unfolded between two communities, resulting in the death of Bhoi. The incident originated from a financial dispute, leading to alleged retaliation against Muslim individuals. Bulldozers were reportedly deployed to target their properties in the aftermath of the clash. An official statement revealed that the conflict started with an altercation between two individuals, Mayur Bhoi and Imran Kadri, over a financial matter. The situation escalated as members from both communities engaged in an attack, ultimately leading to the tragic death of Raju Bhoi. The police have identified 17 out of the 30 accused, including Ayazmia Qureshi, Imran Qureshi, Munaf Qureshi, and Maqbool Qureshi.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, *The Muslim* shared a video on its social media handle depicting a physical attack against a Muslim man in Thane, Maharashtra. According to the





victim, Hitesh, associated with a Hindu organization, allegedly forced Muslims to chant “Jai Shri Ram,” physically assaulted him, and caused damage to an auto-rickshaw. Following the incident, a group from the Muslim community gathered at Sheel Daighar Police Station to file an FIR regarding the assault.

On the same day, [Hindustan Times](#) reported another instance of communal tension from the Tarasari Muria area in Darbhanga, Bihar. Clashes ensued between two communities when stones were reportedly thrown at a Hindu procession carrying the idol of Goddess Saraswati for immersion in the Bahera area of Darbhanga district. The police responded by filing separate FIRs against 170 named accused and 400 unidentified individuals, largely belongs to Muslim community. At least 53 named accused have been arrested and placed in judicial custody, with ongoing efforts to apprehend the remaining suspects. As of now, the situation is reported to be under control, and the administration has converted the entire area into a police camp to restore peace.

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, an incident of hate speech in Karnataka was reported by [India Today](#) involving BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde. His controversial claim that global peace hinges on the presence of Sangh Parivar and BJP stirred controversy. Hegde criticized Islam, asserting that peace is unattainable as long as it exists. Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara pledged legal action, citing the potential for unrest. Despite multiple FIRs filed against him for his contentious remarks, the notorious figure continued delivering hate speech.



On February 18<sup>th</sup>, *Journo Mirror* highlighted a case of police atrocity in Bamori, Guna district, Madhya Pradesh, reported on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. At a Shiva temple, innocent Muslim youths, including Anwar Khan, Raees, Bafati, Zeeshan, and Rehaan, were erroneously arrested for allegedly breaking an idol. However, further investigation revealed Gyarsa as the actual culprit, who confessed to the act due to frustration over marital issues. The legal status of the wrongful arrests is currently under investigation.

Subsequently, on the same date, *The Siasat Daily* reported an incident of an attack on religious spaces in the Malda district, West Bengal. Maharaj Hiranmoy Goswami, a self-proclaimed Hindu priest, conducted a pooja inside the 14th-century Adina Mosque, a monument listed by the ASI and built in 1369 with historical significance. An FIR has been filed against Goswami by the ASI, and local leaders have condemned the act for its potential to incite communal disharmony. Additional police forces have been deployed to maintain law and order.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, *Citizen for Justice and Peace* reported another hate speech from Mumbai Maharashtra. Amidst escalating tensions in Mira Road, Mumbai, following alleged hate speech by BJP MLAs. The situation stems from a January 22 incident involving a saffron-flagged gathering, leading to violence exacerbated by inflammatory language. Telangana BJP MLA T Raja Singh's planned rally on February 25 raises concerns, as civil society aims to prevent his entry, reflecting





a persistently tense atmosphere a month after the initial unrest. Nitesh Rane and Geeta Jain, six complaints have been filed, urging an impartial investigation. Residents demand FIR registration and legal action against the politicians.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, *The Observerpost* highlighted a new incident of alleged state-sponsored discriminatory practices in Pipar town, Rajasthan. A government-run school in Pipar town faced controversy as female Muslim students, donning hijabs, were purportedly denied entry by school authorities. These students asserted that their teachers had been disparagingly labeling them as “Chambal Ke Daaku” due to their hijabs. The school’s principal justified the actions based on adherence to the government-mandated dress code, while Rajasthan’s Education Minister underscored the importance of complying with the state’s dress regulations for government schools.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, *Maktoob Media* brought attention to another instance of state-sponsored discriminatory practices, this time in Rundh Gidawada village, Alwar, Rajasthan. According to recent reports, authorities in Rajasthan demolished 12 houses belonging to Muslims in Kishangarh Bas and destroyed mustard and wheat crops on 44 acres of land over allegations of cow slaughter. Additionally, the electricity department disconnected power to the accused’s residences. The police filed a suo-motu First Information Report (FIR) against 25 Muslims, accusing them of involvement in an alleged ‘illegal cow-slaughtering racket’ and ‘beef sale.’ Eight





Muslim men were arrested under the State's Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995, invoking sections 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 of the RB Act.

Simultaneously, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, *The Times of India* reported a case of alleged police brutality in Bidauli, Jhinhana area, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh. A Muslim man named Furqan died of severe injuries while in police custody. According to the ToI report, Ahmad's family claimed that he succumbed to police torture in Shamli. Ahmad, picked up by Vinay Kumar's team, was returned unconscious with visible injuries. His sister-in-law was reportedly assaulted during questioning. The police are conducting a videographed postmortem under a magistrate's supervision. Authorities refute the allegations, stating Ahmad was found uninvolved in the original case, and the investigation is ongoing.

On the same day, *The Quint* reported an incident of anti-Muslim hate from Wadwad in Kankavli, Maharashtra. Asif Shaikh, a Muslim man, faced harassment on a train as a group of radicalized students compelled passengers to chant "Jai Shri Ram." The situation escalated, leading to threats, a false complaint, and a mob attack on Asif's home on January 25. The mob, allegedly chanting "Jai Shri Ram," physically assaulted Asif, his wife, and their 4-year-old daughter. Asif filed FIRs, including charges of unlawful assembly, causing hurt, rioting, and outraging religious feelings, along with section 135 of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951.



Furthermore, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, a video went viral on social media, shared by [Shadab Khan](#) under the username ‘Yudhi Rajput,’ featuring derogatory comments about the Muslim community and inappropriate remarks about “Allah” on Instagram Reels from Hapur, Uttar Pradesh.

[Hindustan Times](#) on February 20<sup>th</sup> reported an anti-Sikh incident from Dhamakhali, West Bengal. IPS officer Jaspreet Singh accused BJP activists of calling him a ‘Khalistani’ during duty, resulting in a heated argument. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee shared a video of the incident, condemning BJP’s divisive politics. The BJP denied the allegation, stating that the officer was not performing his duty.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, an individual identified as [Wajid Khan](#) shared a video from Ajmer, Rajasthan, depicting a radicalized person associated with a Hindu organization standing near Ajmer Collectorate. In the video, the individual is reported to be insulting the honor of Hazrat Khwaja Garib Nawaz RA.

Also on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, [Ashraf Hussain](#) shared another video on an unspecified platform, detailing a physical assault that occurred in Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The victim, a girl, accused individuals named Karan Nagar and Raju Nagar of misconduct and assaulting her brother. Despite filing a case, the accused allegedly continue to pressure the victim and her family to withdraw



the charges. An FIR has been registered in connection with this incident, and the police are yet to apprehend the culprits.

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On the same day, [IND Story](#) shared a video from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, where a Hindu man was seen molesting a Muslim girl at RMS College. The accused, identified as Satyam, allegedly molested the Muslim girl, resulting in her sustaining a broken finger during the subsequent protest. The victim claims that the police took no action against Satyam, and when she reported the incident to the college principal, she faced scolding.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, [The Indian Express](#) covered an incident of hatred and social stigma against Muslims in Kota, Rajasthan. Two school teachers, Mirza Mujahid and Firoz Khan, faced suspension following allegations of involvement in religious conversion and purported links to banned groups. These accusations were raised in a memorandum submitted by a local group. Responding to the situation, the Rajasthan Education Minister ordered an investigation, with potential termination looming if the claims are substantiated.

On the same day, [The Indian Express](#) reported another incident of state-sponsored discriminatory actions, this time from Deoband, Uttar Pradesh. According to the Express report, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has called for legal action against an Islamic educational institution, Darul Uloom Deoband, for an “anti-India fatwa” published on its website. In a letter addressed to the district





magistrate and senior superintendent of police of Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, the NCPDR requested a thorough investigation and the filing of an FIR against the institute.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, [India Today](#) highlighted another instance of state-sponsored discriminatory practice, this time from Guwahati, Assam. The Assam Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, reportedly repealed the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act, 1935. This decision brings Muslim marriages and divorces in Assam within the purview of the Special Marriages Act. The move is perceived as a step towards implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. Notably, Assam becomes the second state in India, following Uttarakhand, to take a definitive step towards the implementation of the UCC.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, [Dainik Jagran](#) reported an incident of hate speech from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Yati Narasimhanand Maharaj of Shiv Shakti Dham Dasna in Meerut called on the Yogi government to take action against those responsible for issuing the Ghazwa-e-Hind fatwa.

Concurrently, on the same day, [Hate Detector](#) shared a video on its platform, detailing a case related to anti-Muslim hatred from Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra. In this incident, Muslim women allege that a dispute among children playing is being unfairly given a religious angle. This has resulted in pressure on Muslim tenants to vacate their houses and instances of assault.



On February 26<sup>th</sup>, [Hate Detector](#) reported another case of anti-Muslim sentiment, this time from Mira Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra. In an event at Mira Road, BJP MLA Geeta Jain sparked controversy with a statement implying that “with our population size, we can do in five minutes (to wipe out Muslims) what they would take 20 minutes to do.”

Likewise on February 26<sup>th</sup>, [The Muslim X](#) handle shared a video depicting anti-Muslim slogans from Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra. According to the video, objectionable slogans targeting Muslims were raised during T Raja Singh’s rally. Participants were heard chanting provocative slogans, including ones using derogatory terms against the Muslim community, such as “drive away Landya (Muslims).”

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, [Hindustan Times](#) reported an incident involving an attack on religious spaces, specifically a Muslim historical building, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The Agra court ruled that a suit filed by the Sri Krishna Janambhoomi Sanrakshit Sewa Trust for the recovery of Krishna idols, allegedly buried by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, is maintainable. The plaintiff seeks excavation within the Agra Fort premises to retrieve the idols, believed to have been brought from Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. The court’s ruling allows for further legal proceedings related to the recovery of these idols.



On the same day, *Times of India* reported a controversial statement made against Muslim figures by Rajasthan's Education Minister, Madan Dilawar. He asserted that Akbar, the Mughal emperor, was a "rapist" based on "historical narratives." Dilawar plans to establish a committee to scrutinize school textbooks for content that may portray national heroes negatively, specifically mentioning allegations of Akbar organizing 'Meena Bazaar' for abducting, raping, and assaulting women.

Also on February 28<sup>th</sup>, *FOEJ Media's X* handle reported a state-sponsored discriminatory practice by the Government of India. The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) announced the closure of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), drawing criticism for impacting educational opportunities for marginalized Muslim students.

Furthermore, *Abdul Majid Nizami* shared an incident on X of physical assault from Tila Mod district, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Hindu Raksha Dal officials Annu Chaudhary and Daksh Chaudhary, along with two others, disrupted Shab-e-Barat prayers, verbally abusing worshippers and initiating a physical altercation. Both Annu Chaudhary and Daksh Chaudhary have been arrested by the police in connection with the incident.

On the same day, *The Free Press Journal* reported another incident of a state-sponsored discriminatory practice from New Delhi. Wakeel Hassan's house, the





leader of the rat miners whose team successfully rescued 41 trapped workers in Uttarkashi's Silkyara tunnel, was allegedly demolished by DDA without prior notice, despite government assurances not to touch it.

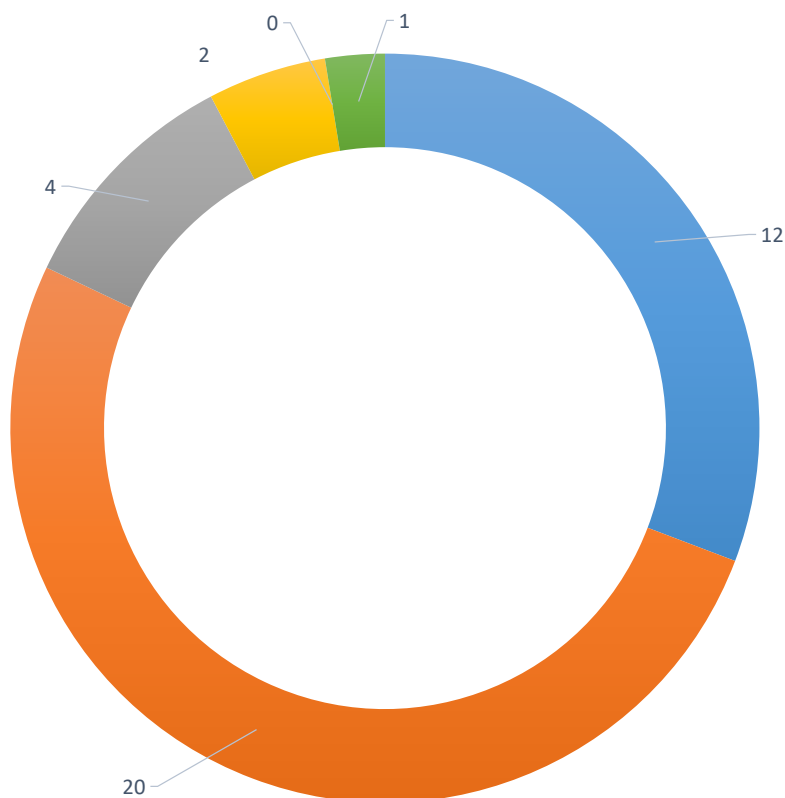
55

Additionally, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, [The Quint](#) reported a hate speech from Thane's Mira Road, Maharashtra. Despite legal challenges, BJP leader T Raja Singh continues to deliver provocative speeches during a rally organized by the Sakal Hindu Samaj, making controversial statements on forts, 'love jihad,' and the Uniform Civil Code. Singh has faced multiple FIRs for hate speech, yet continues delivering provocative speeches despite legal challenges.

Furthermore, [Jannat Jahan](#) shared an Islamophobic video on X, highlighting religious intolerance in the transport sector, with a transport company representative instructing a Muslim man to chant the Hindu religious slogan "Jai Shri Ram" during the transport of Balaji Wafers.

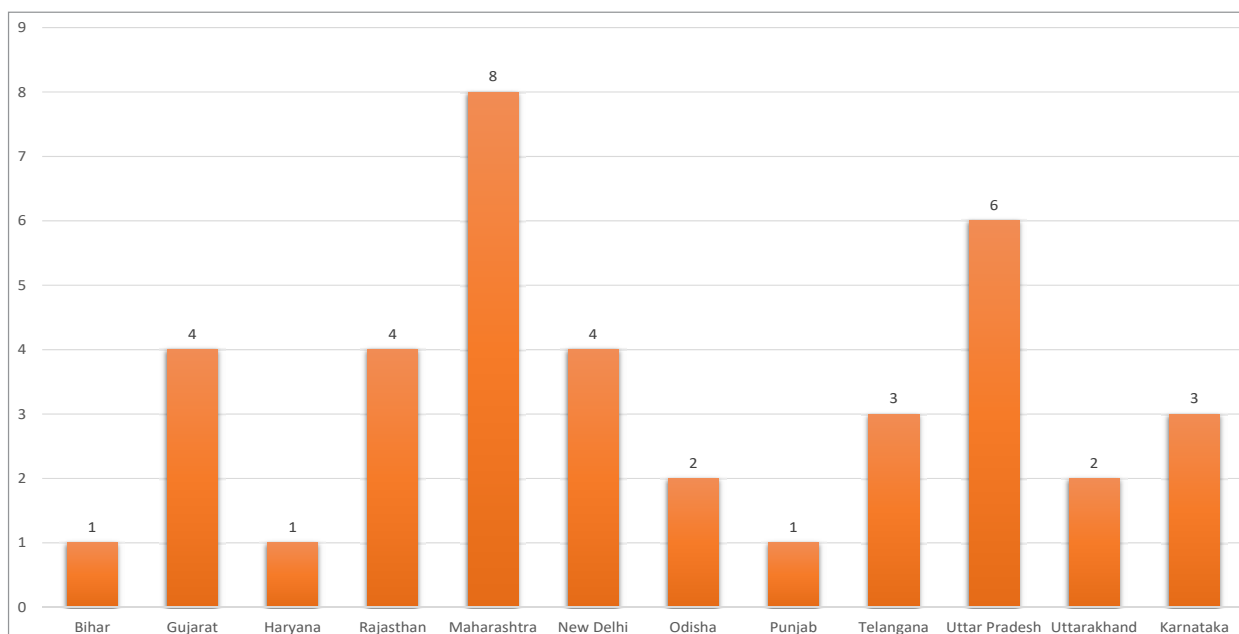
To conclude, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, [Mohs Shadab Khan](#) shared a reported hate speech on X from New Delhi. Delhi Police reportedly refused to register a complaint against Akashdeep for making offensive remarks targeting the Muslim community, citing the need for personal harm. This incident raises concerns about authorities' handling of hate speech cases, highlighting inconsistencies in law enforcement.

## A total of 39 Category-wise Hate Crime cases in March 2024



- Acts of Hate
- Police Atrocities
- Acts of Violence
- Discrimination, Exclusion & Prejudice
- Attacks on Religious Spaces
- State Sponsored Discriminatory Practices

## State-wise Hate Crime Cases reported in March 2024





### *Hate Crime and Hate Speech Cases reported in March 2024*

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On March 1st, [The Print](#) reported controversial remarks from Rajasthan's School Education Minister, Madan Dilawar, a BJP leader. During a curriculum review meeting in Jodhpur, Dilawar made provocative statements, including labeling the 16th-century Mughal ruler Akbar as a “rapist”. He claimed that mentioning Akbar’s name in India was a sin and accused him of holding ‘Meena Bazaars’, where he allegedly picked up beautiful girls and women to rape them. Dilawar questioned how a rapist could be considered great, despite historical narratives portraying Akbar as such.

Subsequently, on the same day, [The Quint](#) covered incident state sponsored discriminatory practice from Kota Rajasthan. As per the report, three Muslim teachers were suspended over allegations of religious conversion and Love Jihad. Education Minister Madan Dilawar’s swift action without a proper inquiry raises concerns of biased treatment. Colleagues, school staff, and students refute the charges, with activists condemning the suspensions.

On March 3rd, web portal [OpIndia](#) and TV 9 Bharatvarsh reported an incident of an attack on a religious space along the Nashik-Manmad Highway in Maharashtra.





According to the media report, authorities in Maharashtra demolished a shrine under the cover of darkness, citing allegations of illegal encroachment. The action was taken despite protests, with BJP MLA Nitesh Rane having previously issued warnings about “land jihad” during assembly sessions. The shrine, described as an ancient structure by Rane, was bulldozed following his ultimatum.

Additionally, on the same day, [Maktoob media](#) reported another incident of physical attack against Christians in Jamui, Bihar. Members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad were reportedly seen assaulting Christians and coercing them to chant “Jai Sri Ram”. The mob targeted Christians, falsely accusing them of engaging in forced religious conversion.

On March 4th, [The Hindustan Gazette](#) reported an incident of Islamophobia from Siddapur Ward, Chikkapet Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru, Karnataka. According to the report, a Hindutva activist filed a complaint against the head of a mosque in Bengaluru, alleging that Muslims had performed Namaz on the road without obtaining permission. The complainant stated that the Namaz caused a traffic jam on the road, particularly problematic as the road hosts several government hospitals such as Nimhans, Kidwai, Rajiv Gandhi, and Sanjay Gandhi hospitals where ambulances frequently pass through. The complainant demanded appropriate legal action against the head of Atiq Masjid, emphasizing that everyone should abide by the law without exception.



On March 5th, a video circulated on [social media](#) depicting Hindutva activists entering the Haji Malang Dargah in Thane, Maharashtra. In the video, they were seen raising communal slogans like “Jai Shri Ram,” thereby attempting to disrupt the social harmony within the historic Muslim shrine.

Also on March 5th, another video widely shared on [social media](#) and [YouTube](#) featured the controversial hate preacher T. Raja Singh. He was seen unveiling a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Doma, Pargi Mandal, Telangana, during which he allegedly delivered a communal speech. Singh purportedly propagated anti-Muslim conspiracy theories, raising concerns about hate speech being propagated by individuals affiliated with the government.

On March 6th, the web portal [Indian American Muslim Council](#) reported a case of religious desecration from Unchahar, Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh. In the BJP-ruled state of Uttar Pradesh, specifically in Raebareli’s Unchahar area, officials allegedly demolished the Mustafa Syed Baba Shrine and an Eidgah, citing them as illegal structures. However, local residents have claimed that the demolitions happened abruptly, without any prior notice, raising concerns about the handling of religious sites in the region.

On March 8th, [The Hindu](#) reported a case of police atrocity from Delhi’s Indralok area. According to the report, Delhi Police Sub-Inspector Manoj Kumar Tomar was



suspended immediately after a video surfaced showing him kicking people who were offering Friday namaz on a road. The suspension came after local residents protested, political leaders condemned the incident, and there was widespread outrage on social media, with many users demanding action against Mr. Tomar.

Additionally, on the same day, *India Today* reported another case of Islamophobia from Vidya Soudha College in Karnataka. According to the report, Hindu students protested against a Muslim girl wearing what they believed to be a hijab. However, the college Principal clarified that it was a cloth covering her ear due to a medical issue. An agreement was reached with the student and her parents to prevent a recurrence of such incidents. Furthermore, students wearing saffron shawls were instructed to cease their protest.

On March 9th, a video that was circulating on *social media* in which a Muslim vegetable seller, Ayaan Bagwan, was physically assaulted by Hindutva activists. They urinated on his face and forced him to chant Jai Shri Ram in Solapur, Maharashtra. The reason behind the attack was purportedly the vendor's interaction with a Hindu female customer. The incident is being framed by Hindutva activists as a case of love-jihad.

On March 10th, *The Siasat Daily* reported another incident of Mazar demolition, this time from Gujarat's Junagadh. According to reports, a two-decade-old dargah near Majwadi Gate was demolished after being declared as illegal encroachment.





Interestingly, there was a previous attempt to demolish the dargah in June of the previous year, but protests halted the demolition. This time, however, the demolition took place between 2 am and 5 am, with barricades set up 300-400 meters from the dargah to prevent people from reaching it during the demolition.

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Furthermore, on March 10th, [Muslim Space X](#) handle shared a video revealing that authorities from the Gujarat government had demolished three alleged “illegal” madrassas in Kutch district, Gujarat. These demolitions were justified on the grounds of construction on government land. Police support was reportedly sought for the demolitions in Jamkunaria and Kuran villages, with similar actions reported in Jamnagar and Dwarka.

On March 11th, [Ashraf Hussain](#) shared a video on his X handle of incident of provocation and incitement from New Delhi. The incident has been reported involving allegations of loud DJ music and religious slogans disrupting a Shobha Yatra while passing through the gate of Jama Masjid.

On March 11th, a video was shared on [X](#) in which a group affiliated with the Hindu Janakrosh Morcha, led by BJP MLA Nitish Rane, reportedly raised objectionable slogans targeting Muslims from Ghatkopar, Mumbai, Maharashtra. They raised slogans like, “Hindustan mein rehna hoga VANDE MATRAM kena hoga”. “Ghatkopar mein rahna hoga JSR kahna hoga”.



On March 11th, [The Muslim X](#) handle shared a video from Akola, Maharashtra, where a tragic incident occurred. According to the report, a 9th-class Muslim student named Altamash Baig reportedly committed suicide. It's alleged that the suicide was a result of facing torture by a teacher named Mira Ahuja, who made religious slurs against the student, ultimately pushing him to take his own life.

On March 12th, [Deccan Herald](#) reported an anti-Muslim incident from New Delhi. According to the report, several members of a right-wing outfit chanted 'Hanuman Chalisa' and 'Jai Shree Ram' during a protest in support of suspended SI Manoj Tomar, who kicked Muslim worshipers in Indralok, New Delhi. They claimed that offering Namaz on the road is wrong and justified the action of kicking SI Manoj Tomar.

On March 19th, [Muslim Mirror](#) reported another incident of physical assault against a Muslim man, Abdul Aziz, in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Abdul Aziz was reportedly collecting donations for a mosque in Salarpur village when he was assaulted by a Hindu man identified as Neeraj Bhati. Following the incident, the police arrested Neeraj Bhati.

On the same day, [The Wire](#) reported a case of economic boycott targeting Muslim traders from Dharchula town, Uttarakhand. The local trader's body revoked registrations of 91 mostly Muslim-owned shops following an alleged elopement





incident involving a Muslim man and two minor Hindu girls. This action has led to tensions in the area, with locals instructed not to rent houses and shops to “outsiders.”

Additionally, on March 19th, web portal [Hindutva Watch](#) shared a video on its X handle purportedly showing a hate speech delivered by Yati Narsinghanand in Hoshiarpur (Talwara), Punjab. He reportedly propagated hate speech targeting Muslims, making alarming statements about an Islamic conquest of India. “*Musalmano ne is desh mein jungle raaj rakha. Chote Chote baccho ko maar dala. Ghazw e Hind hone wala hai muslaman hindu ko khatam kar dege*” (Muslims have established a jungle rule in this country. They have killed small children. The Ghazwa-e-Hind (Islamic conquest of India) is going to happen, Muslims will annihilate Hindus).

Furthermore, [Hate Detector](#) shared a video on its X handle from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, showing a Muslim journalist named Avesh Ali Khan allegedly subjected to physical assault by traffic police personnel. Despite being hospitalized for treatment, no action has been taken against the traffic police by the government.

Lastly, on March 19th, a video of the physical assault of a Muslim man from Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, went viral on [social media](#). The victim, a Muslim student, was reportedly assaulted by individuals from outside the college premises. The incident, captured on CCTV cameras, has sparked outrage and raised concerns





about the safety of students within educational institutions, with outside elements trespassing onto the college campus to target and assault the Muslim student.

On March 21, [India Today](#) reported a case of physical attack against a Muslim student from Yadgir, Karnataka. A 25-year-old student named Wahid Rehman was allegedly assaulted for speaking to a girl from Hindu community. The incident occurred on March 18, when Rehman was returning from college. He claimed that nine individuals, identified as activists of the Hindu group Bajrang Dal, abducted and confined him in a room for five hours, where they beat him and issued death threats. He further stated that the assailants warned him against contacting the girl again. An FIR has been filed by the Bengaluru Police against the accused under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

On March 22nd, a disturbing video circulated on the social media platform [YouTube](#), depicting a horrific incident in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. The video showed a Hindutva mob allegedly setting fire to a mosque while worshippers were still inside. Additionally, the mob was seen pelting stones at the mosque, exacerbating the violence. Tragically, reports indicated that one person lost their life and twelve others sustained injuries as a result of this violent attack on the mosque.

On March 23rd, [Jagran](#) reported another incident of Islamophobia from Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Hindu organizations expressed anger over a large group of people



offering Namaz in a house during the ongoing Ramadan fasting period. Approximately 30-35 individuals from the Muslim community were reportedly offering Namaz in a house located in Ward 12, Rajiv Nagar. This activity prompted protests from Hindu organizations, leading to the intervention of the police to manage the situation. This incident underscores the tensions surrounding religious practices and the need for dialogue and understanding among different communities.

On March 24th, *The Wire* reported controversial remarks from New Delhi attributed to incumbent Assam Chief Minister Hemant Biswa Sarma. Sarma reportedly stated that Bengali-speaking Muslim migrants from Bangladesh “should stop having more than two children” and practice monogamy if they want to be recognized as indigenous to the state. These remarks have sparked controversy and raised concerns about discriminatory attitudes towards certain communities.

Additionally, on the same day, *The Indian Express* reported another incident of physical harassment during Holi against a Muslim family from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. According to the report, the Muslim family, traveling on a motorbike, was stopped by a group of individuals allegedly motivated by radical beliefs, who proceeded to harass them. A video circulating on social media depicted the perpetrators forcefully applying color to the family while celebrating Holi. Upon noticing the incident, the police detained three people, including two minors, in connection with the incident. Subsequently, the police registered a case and are searching for others involved in the harassment.





On March 25th, [The Hindu](#) reported another incident of hatred towards the Muslim community from Aligarh and Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. Prior to Holi, at least nine mosques in the Aligarh and Sambhal districts of Uttar Pradesh were covered with tarpaulin sheets to prevent them from being smeared with colors. This measure was taken after discussions with religious leaders aimed at maintaining law and order and avoiding disputes during the festival. In Aligarh, two mosques, including the Halwaaian mosque and one near Delhi Gate, were covered, while several mosques in Sambhal were also covered.

On the same day, web portal [News Meter](#) reported a unique case of anti-Muslim hatred from Hyderabad, Telangana, where Hindutva activists shared provocative texts in videos to fuel communal tension. These videos circulated on social media platforms are often aimed at inciting enmity between religious communities, and they are utilized by communal elements to advance their divisive agendas.

Furthermore, on March 25th, [Maktoob Media](#) shared an incident of Islamophobia from Vadaj, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. A 27-year-old Muslim auto-rickshaw driver named Nawab Sultan was forcefully stopped in the middle of the road during Holi celebrations by a group of radical Hindus. Despite his plea that he was fasting as a Muslim and requested not to be sprayed with color or water, the crowd, intoxicated with the spirit of Holi, brutally beat Nawab and set his rickshaw on fire upon learning of his religion. As per the latest report, the police and some





Hindu organizations are allegedly trying to ensure that an FIR is not lodged, and the matter is being silenced.

On March 26, *Tribune India* reported a communal disturbance in Gurugram, Haryana. Two individuals fired shots near a mosque in Devi Lal Colony. Police swiftly apprehended one suspect, identified as 31-year-old Gaurav, within 12 hours based on CCTV footage. However, the suspect, Gaurav, refuted allegations of the incident being communally motivated.

On the same day, *Maktoob Media* covered a case of religious desecration in Beed district, Maharashtra. Unknown individuals inscribed “Jai Shri Ram” on a mosque wall, leading to the filing of an FIR by the police after local Muslims gathered to protest. The incident occurred around 5 pm, prompting action from law enforcement after members of the local Muslim community congregated outside the masjid and the local police station seeking redress.

*The New Indian Express* reported communal tension in Chengicherla, Telangana, where clashes erupted between Hindu and Muslim communities. The conflict arose when Hindu community members played loud music near a mosque during Muslim prayers, resulting in injuries and subsequent police action. The clash ensued after the Hindu community was playing loud music on a loudspeaker as part of festival celebrations near a mosque where members of the Muslim



community were offering prayers. The members of one community in Pittala Basti village were playing music on a loudspeaker as part of festival celebrations. The loud music was reportedly being played near a Masjid where Muslims were offering their prayers. Following this, both the communities lodged complaints against each other. The police have registered cases under Sections 324, 147, 148 and 149 of the IPC. As part of the investigation, the police are currently verifying videos and collecting evidence.

March 26 also witnessed a case of Islamophobia in Thane, Maharashtra, as per [News9](#). Five unidentified individuals harassed a Muslim rickshaw driver, Mohammad Kadir, by forcibly applying colors on him, causing him to break his fast during Ramadan. According to the victim, “I picked up a lady passenger from Kalwa’s Dmart and was on my way to drop her in Kharegaon. When we were passing through the Kharegaon naka area, four to five unidentified men stopped my rickshaw and forcibly put colours on me. Although I pleaded with them not to put colours on me as I have roza, they did not listen to me”.

[Crime Reports India](#) shared a video on March 26 depicting a physical attack on a Muslim man, Sujdu, in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. During Holi celebrations, Hindu youths assaulted rickshaw puller Faisal and damaged his e-rickshaw.



Finally, a screenshot circulated on [social media](#) on March 26 depicting death threats against Alt News Co-Founder Mohammed Zubair, shared by Rajib Mishra from Odisha. Mishra, identified as a radical Hindu, threatened Zubair and his family, though no information on police action is available.

On March 27, [News9](#) reported another incident of physical attack against Muslims on allegations of cow smuggling in Alwar, Rajasthan. Four men from Haryana were purportedly beaten up by locals in Alwar for allegedly smuggling cows. The police have initiated an investigation into the incident. However, locals denied any involvement, claiming that the men were injured while attempting to flee the spot when confronted by villagers. The police are skeptical of the villagers' explanation and have launched a thorough investigation into the matter.

Also on March 27, [Maktoob Media](#) reported a bomb blast near a mosque in Sambalpur, Odisha. Unidentified individuals allegedly threw the bomb from an overbridge and fled the scene. The explosion occurred outside Sadar Masjid in Pir Baba Square in Sambalpur after Maghrib prayer, resulting in injuries to at least three Muslim men. Police have stated that an investigation is underway, and efforts are being made to apprehend those responsible for the incident.



## **Conclusion**

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The alarming incidents of religious intolerance, communal violence, and targeted attacks against minority communities detailed above paint a distressing picture of the state of social harmony in India. From physical assaults and hate speeches to mosque desecrations and demolition of religious structures, these events underscore the urgent need for decisive action from authorities and governments at both the state and national levels.

It is imperative that the authorities thoroughly investigate each incident and hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions, regardless of their affiliations or motivations. Justice must be swift and impartial to deter further acts of violence and discrimination. Additionally, steps must be taken to address the underlying causes of religious tensions and communal polarisation, including promoting interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and understanding among different communities.

Furthermore, governments must prioritise the protection of religious minorities' rights and ensure their safety and security. This includes strengthening laws against hate speech, religious discrimination, and communal violence, as well as providing adequate support and resources to vulnerable communities. Additionally, proactive measures should be taken to safeguard religious sites and prevent their desecration or demolition.

Civil society organizations, religious leaders, and community members also have a crucial role to play in promoting peace and harmony. By fostering mutual respect, empathy, and cooperation among diverse religious and cultural groups, they can help build a more inclusive and cohesive society.

The epidemic of religiously motivated incidents highlighted above is a stark reminder of the urgent need to address religious intolerance and communal violence in India. The authorities and governments must take decisive action to combat divisive forces and uphold the principles of pluralism, secularism, and social justice enshrined in the country's constitution. Only through collective efforts can we ensure a future where all citizens can live in harmony and dignity, irrespective of their religious beliefs or background.



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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. Its 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 and 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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