



## **Quarterly Review**July - September 2023

All Indians Are Sanatanis Hinduism: A Sanatan Dharma Nuh-Mewat Communal Clashes Hate Speech in the Indian Parliament

### JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES

(A Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Initiative)





# Contents

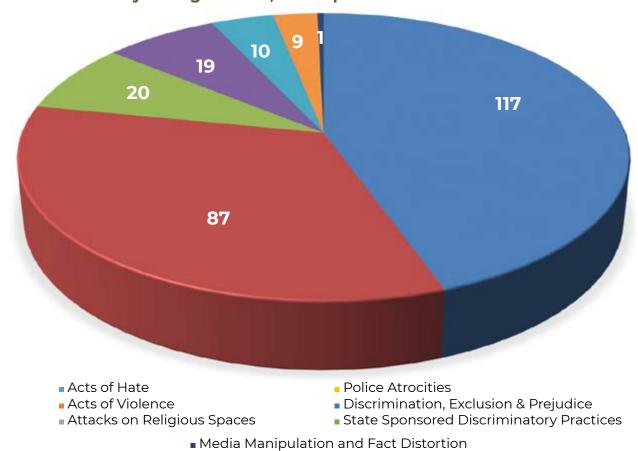


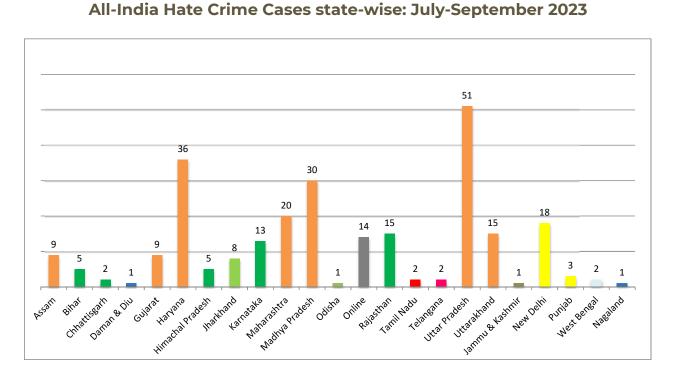






### Hate Crime cases reported in July-September 2023 **Total Cases: 263**Mob-lynching cases: 7, Hate Speech and Crime Cases: 117







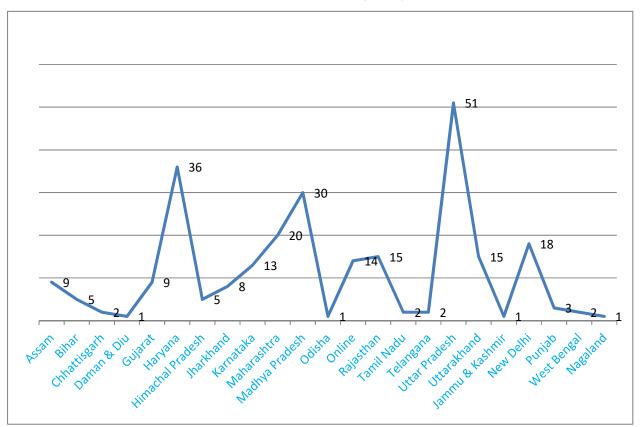
#### **Executive Summary**

In the Third quarter of 2023, we witnessed a sharp spike in the country's Hate Crimes and Hate Speeches. The month of July witnessed 101 verified Hate Crime and Hate Speech cases, and August followed with 114 cases, though in 2022, the figures for these two months had witnessed only 35 and 29 cases, respectively; these two months also witnessed a widespread anti-Muslim campaign in one of the poorest districts of the country, i.e. Nuh-Mewat in the state of Haryana just 80 km away from the national capital. The communal clashes witnessed seven deaths, and as a follow-up 'Bulldozer Justice', 1,208 properties of Muslims were razed to the ground.

There was a little respite in September; as the number of Hate Crimes came down to 48, but the month saw several controversies being started by the ruling BJP and its fountainhead - the RSS. The first controversy related to describing Hinduism as a Sanatan Dharma, followed by the move to rename India as Bharat, then came the statement that all Indians are Sanatanis. September also witnessed the entry of Hate Speech in India's parliamentary debates, when in the new parliament building, a BJP MP shamelessly harangued a Muslim MP of the BSP party, espousing derogatory and racial slurs. Almost the whole opposition joined ranks over this unparliamentary and hateful behaviour of the BJP MP. In addition, minor Muslim students in different states of India continued to be the target of their fellow students instigated by the school teachers, making one wonder whether this new phenomenon has been started at somebody's command or is the result of hate, which has been inculcated in the most honourable and noble profession too.



#### **Trend of Hate Crime Cases during July-September 2023**



#### July-September 2023 Quarterly Summary

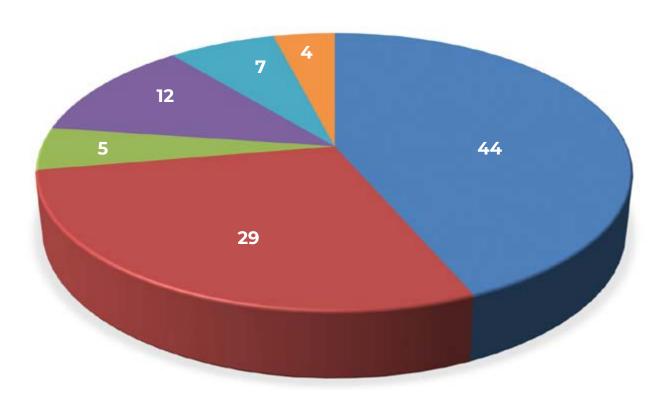
Horrific scenes were witnessed during the last two days of July and early August from Nuh-Mewat, Haryana, on our TV and mobile screens depicting the horrific violence perpetuated by one religious against the other.

However, it was not an isolated or the first incident of its kind but a continuation of a hate campaign that has been perpetuated for past several years in the country. Various news reports have shown the involvement of ruling party leaders, chief ministers, important ministers of the union government, and collusion of TV media in sowing seeds of hatred in the country, leading to the suffering of innocent people.

This alarming situation arose because of the unabashed and continued series of actions taking place in the garb of



#### 101 Hate Crime cases reported during July 2023



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



July 2023
witnessed a
total of 104
verified Hate
Crime and
Speech cases
across India.
However, last
two days of the
month, saw
horrific hate
incidents from
Haryana



Dharam Sansad – Religious Parliament, where venom of hate is spread amongst the attendees, to carry it forward. In addition, accused absconders whom the Police was unable to apprehend were openly posting videos and pictures on various social media with arms - banned in the country - and calling for an open action against one particular religious community

i.e. Muslims in Mewat, in addition to others like the Christians, elsewhere.

It would be pertinent here to point out that such actions would not only lower the prestige of India globally, but it would also drive away the foreign investors from cities like Gurugram, because of the violence and unrest happening next door, where a majority of foreign companies are based. And eventually it may translate into poor performance of the Indian corporate sector in the long run.

If we want our country to prosper and survive these communal tactics then we'll have to chart a new path forward, following principles of tolerance, coexistence and communal amity, for which India is known and praised globally.

July 2023 witnessed a total of 101 verified Hate Crime and Hate Speech cases across India. However, the most significant and horrific Hate Crimes related incidents took place during the last two days of the month, i.e. on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July, when the Mewat or the rechristined Nuh district of Haryana witnessed widespread communal clashes in different villages and towns of the district and the communal wave even touched the financial and corporate hub of the state i.e. Gurugram, where an Imam of a Masjid in Sector 57 of Gurugram was attacked and murdered along with assaulting grievously two other persons.

Communal violence erupted in the Nuh district on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, during a Hindutva procession led by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal.





By evening, fresh incidents of communal violence were reported from Gurugram and Sohna, too.

Seven people lost their lives in the communal clashes, dozens were injured, and property worth crores was destroyed by angry mobs. The immediate trigger for the violence is said to have been a video featuring the infamous cow vigilante Monu Manesar, reported web portal *thewire.in*.

Manesar, who is notorious for his videos of anti-Muslim violence and was wanted for murder, had appealed to his followers to join a Hindutva rally in the Nuh district of Haryana. This rally was titled a *Brajmandal Yatra*, a rather new innovation of right-wing organisations to show their might and muscle power. Such yatras have been organised by VHP leaders at a large-scale since 2021. Manesar had claimed that he'd be personally present at the rally.

As soon as Manesar's video went viral, some Mewati Muslim youngsters responded by posting their own videos, warning the administration not to allow him in Mewat and demanding his arrest. In their social media posts and meetings with the administration, civil society members also alerted the government to take cognisance of the build-up, but the Haryana administration did not respond proactively.

After the riots, Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Dushyant

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Locals also blame Hindutva leader Bittu Bajrangi for his provocative video inciting Hindus before the yatra. In the video. Bajrangi said that he would visit his 'sasural' and people should welcome him



Chautala alleged that the processionists did not fully informed the authorities of their yatra plans. Haryana home minister Anij Vij alleged that the violence was premeditated.

BJP leader and Member of Parliament from Gurgaon, Rao Inderjit Singh, noted that the participants in the procession acted provocatively by carrying swords and lathis.

In February earlier, charred skeletons of two Muslim men were discovered near Loharu police station in Haryana's Bhiwani district, identified as Nasir and Junaid, and Manesar's gang was accused of the killings. Just a few days before the duo's murder, Manesar was linked to yet another mysterious death – that of mechanic Waris Khan, whose family accused Manesar of plotting the murder.

Locals also blame Hindutva leader Bittu Bajrangi for his provocative video inciting Hindus before the yatra. In the video, Bajrangi said that he would be visiting his sasural (Hindi for in-laws' home, here a reference to Mewat) and people should be ready to welcome him. In the background, his supporters are heard saying "jijaji aa rahe hain" (Hindi for 'brother-in-law is coming').

Surendra Jain, the VHP's joint secretary, was spotted at the Nalhar Mahadev Mandir shortly before the outbreak of violence in Nuh. In his purported speech that surfaced on social media and was shared live on Facebook by one Neeraj Vats, he said that Mewat is Krishna's homeland. Later, he targeted the Muslim community, saying, "We need to change Mewat's character."

While communal tensions in Haryana have been on the rise for the past two years, the protests against cow vigilantism have only escalated after the Nasir and Junaid murder case, especially in the Nuh district. Muslims in the area, including families of the victims of mob lynchings by cow vigilantes, have been demanding





the Khattar administration to stop violent raids in Mewat by the likes of Manesar.

An old video of a speech by Congress MLA Maman Khan made in the Haryana assembly right after the murder of Nasir and Junaid was being circulated by the BJP supporters, who claimed it to be the trigger for the Nuh violence. Perplexingly the

Haryana Police arrsted Maman Khan in connection with his alleged involvement in Nuh violence in September and he was also remanded to the police custody.

The 31<sup>st</sup> July violence came as a surprise to people, not only outside the Nuh district but also among a majority of people from the Meo community because the Mewat region, of which the Nuh is a part, has no big history of riots or violence. Though some temples were ransacked in the aftermath of Babri Masjid demolition, reported web portal *thewire.in*.

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

As reported by *The Hindustan Times* in just one district of Haryana 11 towns and hamlets were targeted. Within five days, 1,208 buildings and other structures - overwhelmingly Muslim-owned, were demolished. People whose properties were demolished claimed they were not given any notice by the administration or even informed before the drive began. The numbers, would likely have been higher if not for the Punjab and Haryana High Court's intervention on 7th August in the matter. The court asked the state if it was

The number of demolitions would have been higher if not for the Punjab & Haryana High Court's intervention questioning it as "ethnic cleansing" given the one-sidedness of the demolitions



The united censure against Manipur incident brought out something else about the **Indian society** and politics: that Indians have limits to tolerate the majoritarian superiority they want!

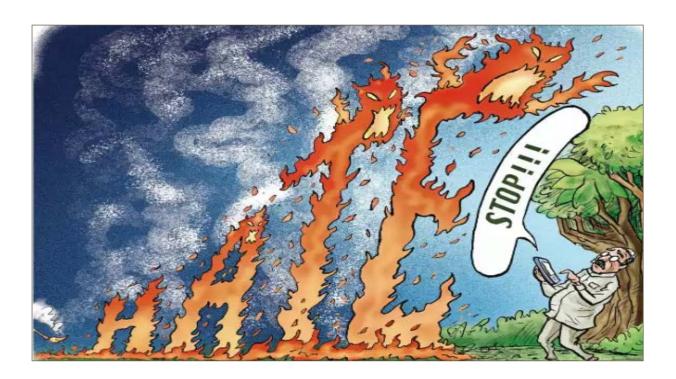


indulging in "ethnic cleansing" given the one-sidedness of the demolitions before staying them. During the hearing, the High Court issued a stay order on the ongoing demolition drive in Nuh. The Court had initiated suo motu cognisance based on news articles reporting the ongoing demolition

activities in Nuh and Gurgaon, which were a consequence of the communal clashes. Newspaper reports quoted the Haryana Home Minister directly, where he mentioned that the use of bulldozers was a form of "ilaj" (treatment) since the government was probing the communal violence. The Court, in reference to this statement by the state Home Minister said, "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We are of the considered opinion that the Constitution of India protects the citizens of this country and no demolitions as such can be done without following the procedure prescribed in law," the court observed. According to official data, the demolished properties were spread across the cities and villages of Nuh, Nalhar, Punhana, Tauru, Nangal Mubarakpur, Shahpur, Aagon, Adbar Chowk, Nalhar Road, Tiranga Chowk and Nagina. It was among the largest demolitions the region has seen.

Commenting on the Nuh communal violence and also the sectarian and violent incidents reported from Manipur, writer Chetan Bhagat in his opinion piece *How much hate is too much?* in *The Times of India*, wrote that the video from Manipur shook the nation and drew unanimous condemnation. The fact that a mob could do this (parade a naked lady and later rape her) in broad daylight in 2023 is deeply unsettling. Whatever be the differences between the local communities, such actions cannot be justified. However, the united censure against this incident brought out something else about the Indian society and politics: that Indians have





limits to the majoritarian superiority they want. Bigotry, while rampant, has its

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

Bhagat opined that polarising politics carries the risk of being on a slippery slope. Like chilis, a little bit of which is OK and can add zing to your dish, but an overdose could be lethal. Similarly, balance and understanding the psyche of the average Hindu supporter is key. Manipur should never have been allowed to escalate like it did. It doesn't take long for a soft, seemingly harmless bigotry to turn into something reprehensible. And that's neither good for the nation, nor does it help politically. Keep bigotry in check, or best, avoid it.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August the whole country was shocked by another ghastly Hate Crime, when a RPF (Railway Protection Force) jawan assigned to the train-duty, shot dead his superior and three others with his assault rifle. A timeline carried by *Times of India* showed that he terrorised passengers on

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Why was Monu not picked up? Why was the planned rally allowed to go ahead despite the volatile situation in Nuh? Was the intelligence gathering so poor that the administration didn't know of the powder keg it was sitting on?: HT



the moving train for more than 40 minutes as he walked through bogies looking for victims before he was taken into custody. Commenting editorially on the incident *Times of India* opined that India's internal security apparatus has grown in size and become more militarised, yet the concern here is whether there's equal attention paid to the people who make up the forces. Eventually, it's a human being who

decides when to fire. Is there an adequate system to identify troubled personnel in all forces?

Commenting on the Nuh clashes *The Hindustan Times* in its editorial *Nuh clashes show governance gaps* - asked some very pertinent questions, it commented that in every country, including India, the Capital is amongst the most sensitive of installations, protected by layers upon layers of security. Hence, if the fringes of the national capital get singed by communal clashes a month before it is hosting 20 Heads of State, hard questions need to be asked of the Haryana administration. That danger was building up was apparent days ago when Mohit Yadav or Monu Manesar - despite being wanted in a string of serious cases, including in the murder of two Muslim men in Bhiwani, and who remains miraculously at large - released a video confirming his presence at a religious rally, but the authorities did nothing. Did the administration not know about the video? Why was Mr Yadav not picked up? Why was the planned rally allowed to go ahead despite the volatile situation in Nuh? Was the intelligence gathering so poor that the administration didn't know of the powder keg it was sitting on?

In its editorial of 3<sup>rd</sup> August, *Times of India* focussed on Nuh clashes, it opined that videos by "absconder" Monu Manesar and another Bajrang Dal leader Bittu





Bajrangi, combined with a few counter-videos, very clearly set the stage for a faceoff. The unrest spread to neighbouring Gurugram too, violence reaching within a few

kms of the offices of blue-chip companies. As the millennium city and the rest of the state crawl back to normalcy, the Khattar administration must answer why it did little to avert a preventable crisis. It further commented that after Nuh violence, VHP and Bajrang Dal held even more assemblies in Delhi-NCR. The Supreme Court directed the Centre and state governments concerned to ensure that no Hate Speech or violence took place during these. But there is an air of impunity to these organisations, as to vigilantes like Manesar. The state machinery seems to look the other way. They seem sheltered from the full weight of the law. But the lawlessness that they wreak is very, very costly for India. The country has a few years' window to grab the China+1 opportunity and reap prosperity for its citizens. But every riot overnight grinds business to halt or worse, daunts new investments. And every tear in social harmony in one place, hurts nationwide. India can't afford Nuhs. GoI should understand that.

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

The state must remain impartial in situations of communal conflict, at a time when the tremors of ethnic clashes in Manipur remained unsettled, communal clashes in Haryana should have been quelled at the earliest: The Hindu



Hindutva as an ideology expresses its expansionist intent in the religious processions. adorned with a symbolism that is under constant invention. State power is now an accessory to its programme, rather than a countervailing force that upholds constitutional principles: S. Muralidharan



be inadequate in the face of communal incitement by groups associated with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. The Haryana administration must take strict action against the perpetrators of the violence, and be vigilant and impartial to ensure peace.

Sukumar Muralidharan writing for *The Hindu* on Nuh violence opined that the recent violence in Nuh district of Haryana, not far from the national capital, had followed a familiar template. Religious events may once have been occasions for affirming a sense of community through shared piety. They are now incomplete without a brazen display of aggression. Hindutva as ideology expresses its expansionist intent in the religious processions, adorned with a symbolism that is under constant invention. State power is now an

accessory to its programme, rather than a countervailing force that upholds constitutional principles. Vigilantism in the scholarly understanding is an ensemble of coercive practices that seek to impose a moral order, an alternate system of legitimacy. This could work in defiance of the writ of the state, but the situation in India is ominously different. Hindutva vigilantism here appropriates and subverts the state's monopoly of legitimate coercion. And in that lies great danger for the constitutional order.

Nistula Hebbar, in her article *The aggressive arm of Hindutva*, published in *The Hindu* traced the origin and rise of the Bajrang Dal, alleged to be the main villain behind communal clashes in Nuh Haryana. Nistula wrote that Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of the VHP, is considered the most strident arm of the Sangh, known for its involvement in controversial campaigns in the name of cow protection,





anti-conversion and preventing Love Jihad. The Bajrang Dal was established in 1984, for the "safety" of the Ram Janaki Raths, during the Ram temple movement led by LK Advani, which made the rounds of various districts of Uttar Pradesh, mobilising support for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya at the site where the Babri Masjid stood, but now it represents the muscle behind the aggressive Hindutva agenda, which includes issues such as cow protection, anti-conversion activities and mobilising support against 'Love Jihad'. After the demolition of the Babri Masjid, the organisation was banned for a year by the Centre, and once the ban was revoked in 1993, former BJP MP Vinay Katiyar became its first all-India chief. The Dal is also connected to regular protests and attacks on couples during Valentine's Day, considered a western concept that encourages "immoral" behaviour. Anti-conversion activities are also high on the Bajrang Dal's agenda. A BJP spokesman, Mr. Vinod Bansal claims that the Bajrang Dal's activities have led to the rescue of 85,000 gauvansh (cows), and that "thousands of FIRs have been filed on cow smugglers. We have also helped get nearly 25,000 of our sisters, who were being coerced into Love Jihad, out of the situation."

Vibhuti Narain Rai, a former director-general of police, Uttar Pradesh, and the chronicler of the 1987 Hashimpura, U.P. killings, in his opinion piece *In Nuh clashes lurk old patterns of sectarianism* on the response of the administration and the

Bajrang Dal's activities have led to the rescue of 85,000 gauvansh (cows), and thousands of FIRs have been filed against cow smugglers. We have also helped get nearly 25,000 of our sisters free, who were being coerced into Love Jihad: Vinod Bansal



The idea of inflicting collective punishment on the Muslim community soon after any riot or communal disturbance. seems to be an ingrained part of governance in BJP-ruled states: The Hindu



local police over Nuh incident, published by *The Hindustan Times* opined that the first response of the administration was poorly planned, and its subsequent action smacked of bias. Without going into the graphic details of what happened in Nuh during the initial waves of communal violence last week, one can say that the handling of the whole episode by the law-

enforcement agencies was shoddy and unprofessional. There is, unfortunately, a pattern in the ways the administration acts (or doesn't), with three common factors: First, the violence always initially begins as a clash between communities, but over time, morphs into a fight between the groups and the police. Second, the riots break out in an apparently spontaneous moment, but, later, it transpires that preparations were going on for quite some time. And finally, at the end of the day, minority communities are left with the perception that the State did not do what it was supposed to do, or in some cases, did what was constitutionally inappropriate. The violence in Nuh holds a lesson that we must learn urgently because such instances can throw a spanner in the works of making India into a \$5 trillion economy. The flames that singed the showpiece of foreign investment and capital last week might not only reduce public and private property to ashes, but also threaten to extinguish the dream of a peaceful and prosperous India.

*The Hindu* in its editorial *Communal Penalty* of 9<sup>th</sup> August opined that the idea of inflicting collective punishment on the Muslim community soon after any riot or communal disturbance seems to be an ingrained part of governance in Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states. The use of excavators to demolish houses, shops and other establishments has now spread to Haryana, after it was practised with impunity in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi last year. The Punjab and Haryana High





Court has done well to stop authorities from continuing with their demolition drive in Gurugram and Nuh, that witnessed communal clashes, leaving six dead. Taking *suo motu* cognisance of reports about the demolition activity, the Bench minced no words in raising the question whether the action is a sort of "ethnic cleansing", as buildings belonging to a particular community were being brought down "under the guise of a law and order problem". It observed that there appears to be no

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

Anshul Trivedi, a member of the Congress Party, in his article *Economic boycott of minorities - a new form of untouchability* for *The Hindu* opined that the Hindutva is using pre-constitutional methods to disempower a community. It is not driven by the motive of maintaining ritual hierarchy but by the political imperatives of exclusion. In the wake of the violence in Haryana's Nuh, calls for boycotting Muslim businesses were heard; however, this otherisation of marginalised groups has been a technique employed since the time of Independence and was flagged by Ambedkar who called it more effective

Hindutva is using preconstitutional methods to disempower a community. It is not driven by the motive of maintaining ritual hierarchy but by the political imperatives of exclusion:

A Trivedi



U.P. state government tabled a 1983 report which investigated the Moradabad, U.P. riots of 1980, in the state legislative assembly on 8th August 2023, the one-man judicial probe reported that the riots were 'planned' but the RSS and the BJP had no role in starting or flaring-up the riots: HT



than open violence. The act of collectively resolving to boycott Muslims reinforces their 'othering' and re-emphasises the VHP's idea of 'Hinduness'; reconstituting Hinduism, based on caste hierarchy, into a unified, ethnic whole, where the figure of the Dalit is replaced by the Muslim as the significant 'other'. These grave new developments need to be taken into cognisance and an urgent politico-legal response to such public calls for Muslim economic boycott is required as they militate against the principle of fraternity enshrined in the Constitution. This can be done by a progressive redefinition of untouchability or by expanding the scope of the anti-boycott laws to include discrimination against religious communities.

The Hindustan Times in its 9<sup>th</sup> August edition reported from Lucknow that the U.P. state government tabled a 1983 report which investigated the Moradabad, U.P. riots of 1980, in the state legislative assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the one-man judicial probe reported that the riots were 'planned' but the

RSS and the BJP had no role in starting or flaring-up the riots. The violence on August 13, 1980 on Eid-ul-Fitr in the Uttar Pradesh city was the worst communal clash in India's most-populous state since Independence. Forty-three years after communal riots killed at least 83 people and injured 112 others in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad town, the state government has tabled a report of a judicial commission that cleared the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the local administration of any wrongdoing, and blamed local Muslim

political leaders instead for what it called the pre-planned violence. "No government officer, employee or Hindu was responsible for fomenting trouble at Eidgah or





other places. The RSS or the BJP nowhere came on the front in these riots. Even

common Muslims were not responsible for violence. This was a handiwork of Muslim League led by Shamim Ahmad and Hamid Hussain alias Ajji and their supporters. The riots were pre-planned," said the judge in the 458-page report tabled by state's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna in the state legislative assembly on 8th August 2023. After the commission submitted its report to the state government in 1983, it was placed before various state cabinets 14 times to table it before the legislature. But the different political parties decided to not table the report under administrations run by the Congress, the BJP, Samajwadi Party, and Janata Dal. Ealier, on 12th May 2023, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the proposal to table the report in the legislative assembly. What astounds you is that what was the need of tabling this report after 43 years, is this an attempt to whitewash the activities of the righ-wing organisations and make them appear as peaceful, just eightmonths before the next general election?

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman, an academician in his opinion piece *Anatomy of a riot* for *The Hindu* opined that the recent riots in Nuh showed a clear pattern of targeting Muslim minorities. Though Hindu-Muslim violence is not new in India, the one that erupted in Nuh district and Gurgaon in Haryana recently has perhaps opened a new chapter in terms of its nature, character

**Though** Hindu-Muslim violence is not new in India, the one that erupted in Nuh and Gurgaon districts in Haryana recently, has perhaps opened a new chapter in terms of its nature, character and consequences on the Indian polity: SM Rehman



The political context of the sustained penetration of Hindu majoritarianism in various domains of state and society need to be factored in as well, particularly with regard to state indifference or complicity: SM Rehman



and consequences on the Indian polity. Based on reports, this violence - it could be argued - is a result of competitive assertion of identities in a highly polarised polity which offers varied forms of patronage to non-state actors. Given the state response, it looks like the Muslim minority may end up paying a disproportionately greater price, as has often been the case in riots even in the non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) days of India's governance. Scholars might find it tempting to go

back to Paul Brass's formulation of an institutionalised riot system (IRS), based on his study of riots in Aligarh and Meerut, to make sense of the spontaneity, and scale of this violence. He further opined that in his view, there is more to it than Brass's formulation. The political context of the sustained penetration of Hindu majoritarianism in various domains of state and society need to be factored in as well, particularly with regard to state indifference or complicity. The Haryana and Punjab High Court's observation, describing bulldozer justice as "an exercise of ethnic cleansing is being conducted by the State," reveals a lot about the ideological intent of the state response.

The Hindustan Times in its editorial Bridge the divide, commenting on the public spat between the Assam Rifles and Manipur Police commented that the unprecedented face-off between the Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police has laid bare the disturbing fault lines inside the administration that is responsible for restoring peace and building bridges between two communities which have effectively partitioned the state, separated by a fractious buffer zone. This is particularly disturbing as the horrors unfolding in Manipur have captured the national consciousness, with efforts at the highest levels - from the Centre to





the Supreme Court - to ensure a modicum of justice for the victims, especially the victims and survivors of sexual assault. The bitter public exchange between two forces responsible for the state's security threatens to jeopardise whatever little semblance of law and order that remains in Manipur.

Gautam Bhatia in his opinion piece *Demolitions as state-sanctioned collective punishment*, for *The Hindu* opined that abandoning the rule of law for 'bulldozer justice' is the first step towards an authoritarian society where ensuring a person's safety, life and liberty will be at the whims and fancies of state officials. The demolitions in Nuh are just the latest iteration of what has come to be called "bulldozer justice". For more than a year, from Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, to Khambhat in Gujarat, to Jahangirpuri in Delhi, to Nagaon in Assam, to many others, the demolition of homes as a form of frontier justice (as a response to political violence) has become a standard feature of administration.

Suhas Palshikar in his opinion piece *The rise of bulldozer governance* for *The Indian Express* opined that besides routinely discarding procedures, the action betrays cynicism about all forms of accountability. India is going through a transformation from an incomplete and ongoing project of democracy, living with the imperfections of democratic practice, to a surreal sense of having achieved democracy by discarding many practices that would normally be associated

India is going through a transformation from an incomplete and ongoing project of democracy, living with the imperfections of democratic practice, to a surreal sense of having achieved democracy by discarding many practices that would normally be associated with it: S Palshikar



**Indians** will have to choose between Godse's Hindu Rashtra and the idea of India enshrined in the Constitution. Although the ordinary Indian is putting up a brave fight to douse these fires of hate. it seems akin to throwing a bucket of water at a wildfire: Neeti Nair



with it. Take the case of the bulldozer as a symbol of democratic government. It is not very often that elected governments and leaders seek to present themselves as being extra-tough and even vindictive towards citizens. In fact, the idea of minimum government (with maximum governance) emanates from the need to reduce unnecessary and intrusive regulation. The stinging term "ethnic cleansing" used by the Punjab and Haryana High Court might appear to some as exaggerated, but in all the instances of bulldozer governance, the poor and the marginalised have been at the receiving end. Independence was about asserting our individual and collective identity as citizens. Ironically, as we complete 75 years and more of that assertion, we find ourselves voluntarily reduced to the status

of willingly bulldozed multitudes.

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





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

Abraham Thomas in his opinion piece for *The Hindustan Times* raised a very relevant point quoting the Supreme Court's observation that while the definition of what constitutes Hate Speech is complex, there is a bigger problem of execution at the ground level. The court also sought the assistance of the Centre and States in this regard. The court while dealing with these petitions in October last year and later in January this year passed a slew of directions to curb Hate Speeches. The court asked to devise a mechanism by which even in the absence of a complaint, the police could proceed against persons by registering criminal cases where hate speeches are made and even take precautionary measures to ensure such incidents are prevented before they take place. For classifying Hate Speech as a penal offence, a recommendation was made by the Law Commission in March 2017. It suggested insertion of new provisions - Section 153C (prohibiting incitement to hatred) and Section 505A (causing fear, alarm, or provocation of violence in certain cases) in the Indian Penal Code (IPC). At present, such crimes are booked under Section 153A (promoting enmity), Section 295A (deliberate acts intended to outrage religious feelings) and Section 298 (uttering words to wound religious feelings of a person).

While the definition of what constitutes Hate Speech is complex, there is a bigger problem of execution at the ground level, a mechanism should be devised to take cognisance of any such act without any formal complaint: **Supreme** Court



The BJP. along with its ideological parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, is employing tactics to subjugate Dalits while expanding its electoral influence within the community: Ram Puniyani

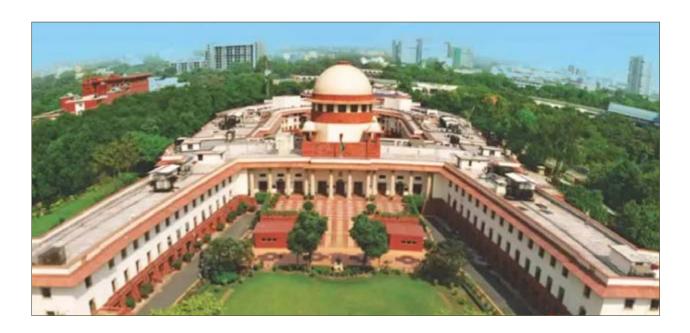


On 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, an article *Majoritarian Politics and the Plight of Dalits* by Ram Puniyani published by *The Wire* discussed how despite the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) claims of inclusive development, the conditions of weaker sections, particularly Dalits, are deteriorating due to the majoritarian politics. The BJP, along with its ideological parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is employing tactics to subjugate Dalits while expanding its electoral influence

within the community. E.g. the question of extending reservations to Dalits who have converted to Islam, arguing that they face double marginalisation and deserve affirmative action, the article says. It also discusses the BJP's strategies, the influence of the RSS, and the importance of addressing the economic, social, and political challenges faced by the Dalit community.

New York Times in an article India is on the Brink by Debashish Roy Chowdhury discussed the escalating violence and ethnic tensions in the Northeastern Indian state of Manipur, attributing it to the politics of Hindu supremacy, xenophobia, and religious polarisation promoted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Ethnic violence in Manipur, including incidents of sexual assault and gang rape, has surged, resulting in deaths and displacement. The author points out that India's diversity is being torn apart by exclusionary politics that aim to reshape the nation into a Hindu-majority state. Under Modi's rule, mob violence and vigilante groups have targeted minorities, especially Muslims. Lynchings, calls for genocide, and assaults on Muslims have become distressingly common. The article also highlights the targeting of Christians in Manipur by the BJP-led government and Meitei militias, leading to rape, arson, and church burnings. The author argues that Modi's party is redefining the Indian polity by choosing who





belongs and ostracising those who don't, leading to increasing conflict and violence.

A group of current and retired faculty members from the Indian Institute of

Management Bangalore (IIMB) wrote an open letter, published in *The Indian Express*, in their personal capacity to corporate India, urging them to "de-fund hate speech" and take a stand against hate and misinformation. Deepak Malghan, an associate professor of Public Policy at IIMB, shared the letter, which emphasises that the risk of genocide in India is no longer close to zero due to increasing levels of radicalisation and Hate Speech. The letter highlights the important role corporate leaders have in curbing the spread of hate and misinformation, and it calls on them to stop funding hate, support responsible stakeholders, and promote a welcoming work culture to prevent escalating violence and socioeconomic uncertainty in the country. The letter garnered 17 signatories, including six retired professors.

As per a report by *The Hindustan Times*, the Supreme Court has directed the Indian government to provide a report within three weeks about states that have not yet appointed nodal officers in each district of the country, as previously directed in 2018, to combat crimes of mob lynching and Hate Crimes. This directive came during the hearing of petitions seeking measures to curb Hate Speech following protests in Haryana and other areas advocating a social boycott of Muslims. The court aims to assess the effectiveness of nodal officers in districts and strengthen the mechanism established in 2018. It

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At a
Mahapanchayat
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vowed to
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boycott by
Hindutva groups
in Haryana



has asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to gather information on nodal officer appointments and propose guidelines for their roles, including recording Hate Speech instances using CCTVs. The court also proposed forming committees in districts with significant Hate Speech cases for better handling

and monitoring. Various advocates submitted suggestions on curbing Hate Speech, highlighting challenges in implementation due to unclear definitions and lack of political will.

In response to the anti-Muslim violence that occurred in Nuh, Haryana, following a rally by Hindutva groups on 31st July, farmers and Khap (caste) Panchayats in the Mewat region took a stand against hate and communal tensions. Web portal *The Wire* reported that the farmers held three major meetings in Jind, Hissar, and Mewat, aiming to counter the divisive atmosphere. Over 20 Khap Panchayat meetings were held in the region. At a Mahapanchayat in Rajasthan's Alwar, farmers vowed to combat hatred after the violence. These actions have led to a decrease in calls for Muslim boycotts by Hindutva groups in Haryana. Farmers emphasised solidarity and unity to prevent further bloodshed and polarisation in the lead-up to the upcoming elections. The rejection of hate politics by the dominant community has provided reassurance to minority communities. Despite tensions, police denied permission for another rally by Hindutva groups, and the farmers' united stance seems to have helped avert further crisis in the area.

Renowned author and Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy expressed deep concern over the unchecked rise of Hindu extremism in India, warning that it poses a significant threat to the country's democracy. In a far-reaching interview with Britain-based ITV, she said ahead of the general elections in India next year, we are





all "braced for a campaign of blood" after a surge in shocking attacks on Muslims,

including many fatal, across the country in recent weeks, she highlighted recent violent attacks on Muslims, including fatal incidents, and linked these acts to the ruling BJP's association with the RSS ideology. Roy criticised the changing laws, killings, and dismantling of the state's institutions, suggesting that Muslims are being reduced to second-class citizens. She pointed out the police's lack of intervention and the vulnerability of Muslims in the face of these challenges, while emphasising the precarious state of India's democracy.

The Indian Supreme Court has reaffirmed that hate speeches against any religion should be treated equally and dealt with according to the law, regardless of the offender's faith. A division bench of the court stated that both sides of the religious spectrum must face equal consequences for Hate Speech, referencing guidelines issued in a 2018 judgment aimed at preventing mob lynching and Hate Speeches. The court responded to a petitioner's claim of a "death to the Hindus" slogan raised during a rally by stating that Hate Speech, regardless of the perpetrator's religion, would not be tolerated. The court allowed time for the Centre and the Haryana government to respond regarding the formation of committees to examine and verify Hate Speech cases as per the 2018 guidelines. The court has been working to establish mechanisms at the local level for addressing Hate Speech and preventing the apex court

Arundhati Roy criticised the changing laws, killings, and dismantling of the state's institutions, suggesting that Muslims are being reduced to secondclass citizens in India, due to police's lack of intervention and the vulnerability of Muslims in the face of these challenges



September saw a number of controversies being started by the ruling BJP and its fountainhead - the RSS. The first controversy related to describing Hinduism as Sanatan Dharma, followed by the move to rename India as Bharat



from being the first resort for filing FIRs.

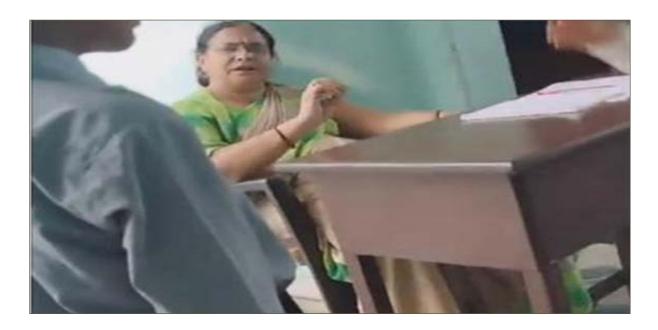
The Indian Express reported that an FIR has been lodged against Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of Alt News, for allegedly revealing the identity of a seven-year-old Muslim boy involved in an incident where he was slapped by classmates on a teacher's instructions. Zubair was among the journalists who shared a video of the incident on social media, later deleting it, leading to the case being filed under Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice Act. The incident occurred at Neha Public

School in Muzaffarnagar, where the teacher allegedly instigated students to attack the boy based on his faith. Zubair expressed surprise at being singled out, given that other outlets also shared the video, suggesting potential targeting by the police.

There was a little respite in the month of Septmber, as the number of Hate Crimes came down, but the month saw a number of controversies being started by the ruling BJP and its fountainhead – the RSS. The first controversy related to describing Hinduism as a Sanatan Dharma, followed by the move to rename India as Bharat, and a BJP MP hurling caste expletives on a fellow Muslim MP.

In an article published in *The Hindu*, *Dalit-targeted violence*, *a dimming of Tamil Nadu's halo*, Stalin Rajangam, and A.B. Rajasekaran opined that social and political organisations must acknowledge that the issue of violence against Dalits in the Tamil Nadu exists and needs addressing. In an incident in Tamil Nadu earlier this month, a Dalit school student, Chinnadurai, was attacked by three students wielding a machete. His sister was also attacked when she tried to intervene. Dalits continue to face violence in some form or the other across India every day. However, the incident, which took place on 9<sup>th</sup> August, in Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district, shocked the State as the perpetrators were school students, who belong to the numerically dominant





community in that region. It is common knowledge that many students, particularly in rural Tamil Nadu, wear specific colour bands on their wrist as a mark of caste identification. In a State that has a history of caste violence against Dalits since Independence, the latest incidence is a cause for worry. These incidents must not be

seen in isolation. There are many factors such as a mushrooming of caste organisations that run high on caste pride, a near total absence of anti-caste activism within the powerful Other Backward Classes (OBC) by social and political organisations, and even the feeble response from non-Dalit intellectuals.

Academician Shaikh Mujibur Rehman in his article, *The many* faces of Islamophobia for The Hindu, while commenting on the student-teacher incident reported from Khubbapur village of Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, where a Muslim boy was slapped by his classmates on the instruction of their teacher, opined that in this case, the victim and the perpetrator, both belonged to the Tyagi clan. Despite hailing from different religions they share a cultural bond. Yet, Islamophobia has reared its ugly head and left the sacred trust between teacher and student broken. This is how much India has changed. He further opined that Islamophobia is a global phenomenon. But the sources and issues from which it emanates vary from region to region. What is being witnessed in India is quite different from what is seen in the West. In India, Islamophobia, communalism and intolerance are some of the key concepts used to explain the troubled Hindu-Muslim relations. Of the three, the use of the notion of communalism has disproportionately dominated **Islamophobia** is a global phenomenon. But the sources and issues from which it emanates vary from region to region. What is being witnessed in India is quite different from what is seen in the West: SM Rehman



India is one of the most diverse nations in terms of religion and that is why 'Sarva Dharma Sambhava' concept of Indian secularism emerged in independent India under the impact of Gandhian thought: Anil Deshmukh



scholarly works particularly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In a Rawlsian sense, each is a freestanding concept, but possesses overlapping attributes. It is only by unravelling these attributes that the threat that Islamophobia poses to India's secular social order can be understood. With its pejorative connotation, the concept of communalism is applied exclusively in a South Asian context; though the concepts of Islamophobia and intolerance are universal in usage.

Commenting on the recent rather unsavoury and controversial statement by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat that all Indians are Hindus and Hindus mean all Indians, Pradip Kumar Maitra in his opinion piece appearing in *The Hindustan Times* said that according to Bhagwat, India is a "Hindu Rashtra" and all its citizens are Hindus, pointing out that while most have "accepted this truth", a section refuses to accept it due to "selfish motives". Reacting to Bhagwat's statement, senior leader of the Nationalist Congress Party Anil Deshmukh said, "India is one of the most diverse nations in terms of religion and that is why 'Sarva Dharma Sambhava' concept of Indian secularism emerged in independent India under the impact of Gandhian thought."

Deeptiman Tiwary in his article, *VHP plans Shaurya Jagran Yatra*, *to raise Dharma Yoddhas* for *The Indian Express* opined that with Lok Sabha polls scheduled by the summer of 2024, the yatra assumes significance, as it has the potential to create a religious fervour in favour of the BJP. As part of its countrywide *Shaurya Jagran Yatra* (valour tour) between 30<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October to "re-energise" society on Hindu Dharma and create awareness on "love jihad, conversion and Sanatan Dharma", the VHP plans to raise groups of "dharma yoddhas", or religious warriors, to keep an eye on "anti-religious activities", among others. The event comes in





the run-up to the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, planned in January 2024. "The larger plan is to reconnect with 62 crore people who donated for Ram Temple," a VHP leader said. The organisation is also working on devising programmes to honour those who participated in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, or contributed towards it. Those who "sacrificed" for the temple construction would be specially remembered, VHP's spokesman Vinod Bansal said.

In an article, Curbs on women 'had to be imposed' because of Islamic invasions, published by The Indian Express, Deeptiman Tiwary wrote about the new interpretation being forwarded by the RSS idelogoues on the issue. Speaking on women's empowerment at Delhi University under the aegis of Naari Shakti Sangam - Women Power Forum, Krishna Gopal, RSS's joint general secretary said, before the 12th Century, women were reasonably free and contributed significantly to Indian society. Traditions such as child marriage, 'sati', ban on widow remarriage, and illiteracy among women crept into Indian society because of Islamic invasion. He also warned against Western culture and said managing the kitchen was as important as becoming a scientist. "Let's come to the middle ages. It was a very difficult time... the entire country was struggling with subjugation. Temples were broken, universities destroyed and women were in danger. Lakhs of women were kidnapped and sold in international markets. (Ahmed Shah) Abdali, (Mohammed) Ghouri and

Before 12th Century, women were reasonably free and contributed significantly to the Indian society. **Traditions** such as child marriage, sati, ban on widow remarriage, and illiteracy among women crept into Indian society because of Islamic invasions: K Gopal



Sanatan Dharma is both a philosophical concept - of "the eternal way of life associated with Indian civilisational values" - as well as Hindu religion and can also be equated with the ideology of Hindutva and the concept of Hindu Rashtra: **BJP** 



(Mahmood of) Ghazni had all taken women from here and sold them.... It was an era of great humiliation. So, to protect our women, our own society put multiple restrictions on them" Gopal said. RSS leader claimed curbs on women 'had to be imposed' because of Islamic invasions. He, however, underlined that despite the restrictions, women played a big role in society between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Warning against the influence of western culture, Gopal said, "Women of our country have to be careful against western influence... we have to progress... you use technology, fly

planes, manoeuvre ships, go to ISRO, become a scientist, doctor or engineer... do whatever you like... but stay a woman. A woman is the pivot of the house, remember that. It is the woman who gives values to children and the family." Gopal also underlined how managing the kitchen was as important as managing a career. "...We have a principle where we see women as mothers. Because it is the finest form of a woman. In the south, even a six-year-old girl is called 'amma'," he said.

The India Express reported about another new controversy started after Udyanidhi Stalin's statement on Sanatan Dharma, giving further leverage to the controversy a senior leader of the RSS-the ideological fountainhead of the BJP, said that Sanatan Dharma is both a philosophical concept - of "the eternal way of life associated with Indian civilisational values" - as well as the Hindu religion. The Sangh has, over time, also equated it with the ideology of Hindutva and the concept of Hindu Rashtra or a Hindu Nation. In its articulations, the RSS suggests that Sanatan Dharma has existed since the advent of civilisation itself, and that the term is far more comprehensive than Hindu Dharma-Hindu religion - which,





it believes, actually flows out of the larger philosophy. "The dharma (way of life) that is continuing since eternity is *Sanatan Dharma*. It is all-inclusive. It is from this that all other faiths and ideas flow out. Whatever new religions took shape in India, came out of this philosophy. Hinduism itself is merely a form of *Sanatan Dharma*. Those who are equating it with 'Brahmanism' are doing it out of ignorance and self-interest. In fact, the term 'Brahmanism' itself is imaginary" a senior RSS leader said.

Mr Udhayanidhi Stalin - Tourism Minister of Tamil Nadu state - while addressing a conference of Progressive Writers in Chennai started a controversy by stating that *Sanatan Dharma* was like dengue and malaria which needed to be eradicated.

"Such things should not be opposed, but destroyed" he said. The remarks raised a plethora of reactions across the board, with the BJP demanding clarity from the Congress, a DMK ally, on whether it shared Mr Udhayanidhi's sentiments on *Sanatan Dharma*. BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya posted on social media platform X that the remark was akin to a call for "genocide" of 80% of the population of India that followed *Sanatan Dharma*. An FIR was registered at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh against Mr Udhayanidhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's son and Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge, who had supported the former in the controversy, for allegedly outraging religious feelings with their statements.

In yet another controversy in September, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat urged people to refer to the country as "Bharat" and not "India". In his column for *The Indian Express*, Diptaman Tiwary

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The Sangh has used the term 'Bharat' since its inception in 1925. Bharat, according to the RSS, is integral to the nation's identity, and it has been a longstanding tradition of the Sangh Parivar, which has used Bharat since before Independence



opined that from the speeches of its founder KB Hedgewar to its second 'sarsanghchalak' MS Golwalkar, the Sangh has used the term Bharat since its inception in 1925. Bharat, according to the RSS, is integral to the nation's identity, and when Bhagwat last week urged people to refer to the country as "Bharat" and not "India", he was drawing on a longstanding tradition of the Sangh Parivar that has used Bharat since before Independence. For the Sangh and the

BJP, only Bharat has a linguistic and cultural context for Indians, not India. As a political row erupted over a G-20 dinner invitation from the government sent out in the name of the "President of Bharat", BJP National Executive Committee member Anirban Ganguly termed it a "needless controversy" raked up by the Congress party. "Bharat is the natural name of India. It is not a question of the BJP's ideology. All Indian languages call the country Bharat. Read Bangla literature and find out what it calls India. Both India and Bharat are part of the Constitution. We are giving primacy to Bharat because most people call it Bharat," said Ganguly, who is also the chairperson of the Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation. Ganguly said those protesting had been at the forefront of "distorting history and our civilisational identity". He added, "The British gave many names. But subsequently, Ceylon became Sri Lanka and Burma became Myanmar. Has it caused any problems? The argument of our founding fathers is good, but should it then also not apply to the words secular and socialist as they were not sanctioned by them?"

In her article, 'Bharat' or 'India'? The Controversy Over Some Hindu Nationalists' Push to Rename India for The Time magazine, Anna Gordon commented that 'Bharat'





is the name for India in many Indian languages, including Hindi, and critics say its use is the latest sign of a nationalist push amid a banner year for the country. Several BJP leaders have cheered that approach. "We have seen that Modi and

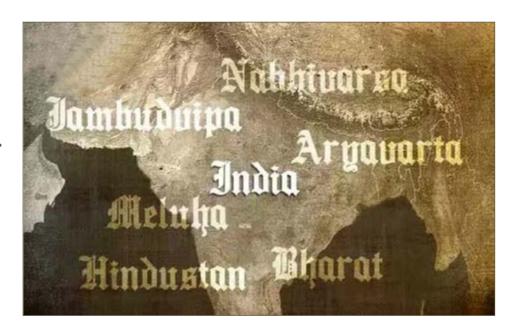
the BJP want to distance modern India from the colonial past. And so we've seen this trend of renaming streets that have names that refer to the colonial past. Clearly this is an example of wanting to use the term that the BJP thinks is the proper, more appropriate term to use for India," Anna quoted Michael Kugelman, the director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.

Mention here should also be made of an article by Sudheendra Kulkarni, written in 2016, *A self-goal by the RSS* and published by *The Indian Express*, wherein he commented that two things are taboo in the RSS and the BJP. The RSS never admits there's anything flawed or outdated in its ideology. The BJP, which has allowed itself to be ideologically captured and organisationally controlled by the RSS, never publicly challenges the parent organisation's core beliefs. However, reality does not respect any organisation's imagined infallibility. Those who have tried to dictate the world to follow their own dogma have fallen by the wayside. History accommodates, even applauds, those who change with the times. But changing with the times demands honest self-criticism in the public realm. This spirit is in short supply in the RSS and BJP. The RSS has always claimed that "Hindu

**History** accommodates, even applauds, those who change with the times. **But changing** with the times demands honest selfcriticism in the public realm. This spirit is in short supply in the RSS and BJP: Sudheendra Kulkarni



There is speculation of an official change in the name of the country from India to Bharat, even though Article 1 of the Constitution uses the two names interchangeably-"India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States"



Rashtra" and "Akhand Bharat" (the two are inter-related) are its core beliefs, which will not change even if the organisation changes some of its external features. However, at the very first brush with the recently changed reality in the India-Pakistan engagement, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bold visit to Lahore, one of its ideological pillars, Akhand Bharat, has developed embarrassingly huge cracks. These cracks are vainly sought to be covered up with weak

explanations and confounding clarifications.

Adrija Roychowdhury in her article, *India*, *that is Bharat: A short history of the nation's names, from the Rig Veda to the Constitution of India* published by *The Indian Express* commented that the roots of "Bharat", "Bharata", or "Bharatvarsha" are traced back to Puranic literature, and to the epic Mahabharata. The Puranas describe Bharata as the land between the "sea in the south and the abode of snow in the north". Opposition politicians have been posting images of an official invitation to a G-20 dinner hosted by "The President of Bharat" instead of the usual "President of India". There is speculation of an official change in the name of the country from India to Bharat, even though Article 1 of the Constitution uses the two names interchangeably: "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States". Also, several names such as Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Railways already have Hindi variants with "Bharatiya" in them.

In his response to the *Sanatan Dharma* controversy PM Modi said that the Constitution does not allow abuse of any religion. As reported by *The Hindu* PM Modi told his ministerial colleagues that DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks on *Sanatan Dharma* required a "proper response"





based on "facts of the issue" within the contemporary situation. He emphasised that the Constitution did not allow the abuse of any religion. On the issue of "Bharat" being used instead of "India" in government communication in English as well, Mr. Modi reportedly said that only those authorised to speak on behalf of the government should comment on the issue.

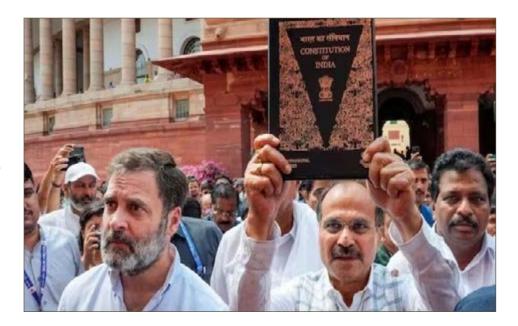
In a rather surprising statement the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma said, the Bajrang Dal is not associated in any way with the Bharatiya Janata Party or the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, while responding in the

state Legislative Assembly to an adjournment motion on arms training during a Bajrang Dal camp in the state earlier this year. Following a video in July showing young men receiving arms training in a school in Assam's Mangaldai town, the Assam police had registered an FIR against organisers from the Bajrang Dal under sections pertaining to promoting enmity between different groups and common intention. Speaking on the adjournment motion, AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam said it was not possible for such an event to take place without the knowledge of the local administration. Responding to this, Sarma said that the police have registered an FIR and the accused will be chargesheeted, but stated as a "clarification" that the RSS and the BJP "do not have even a distant connection with the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal". "And if you want to see a little ahead, the VHP and Bajrang Dal, both these organisations are two parallel organisations which do various work of

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Sangh: Assam
Chief Minister
Himanta
Biswa Sarma



Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on 19th September claimed that the words "socialist" and "secular" were missing in the Preamble of the Constitution of India, the copies of which were recently given to the MPs



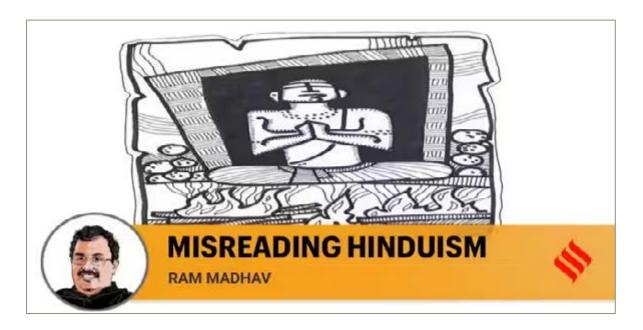
their own. Our BJP is not a part of that, and neither is the RSS by any distance" he said.

Vivek Yadav in his article, On the decolonisation debate, both sides are wrong - we need a middle ground, commented that those among us who believe in the project of a Swaraj in ideas must reject the false choice between the parochial nativism of the Hindutva ideologues and the false cosmopolitanism of those who deny the very need for decolonisation of knowledge systems. Referring to a recent article by Pratap

Bhanu Mehta *We, the decolonialists*, IE, 31<sup>st</sup> August, Yadab draws attention to an alarming new development in our public discourse - a proliferation of talk about "decolonising". Ideologues allied to the ruling dispensation have, in recent years, called for the decolonisation of everything from education to the Constitution to consciousness itself. As Mehta rightly points out, this political project is deeply problematic in so far as it conflates colonialism with modernity and calls for an indiscriminate rejection of everything Western along with an equally uncritical acceptance of everything Indian.

Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on 19<sup>th</sup> September claimed that the words "socialist" and "secular" were missing in the Preamble of the Constitution of India, the copies of which were given to the MPs on 19<sup>th</sup> September. These two words were originally not a part of the Preamble. They were added by The Constitution (42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) Act, 1976 during the Emergency imposed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The description of India as a "secular" country in particular, has been debated intensely over the past four decades; with critics, mostly on the Right, claiming





that these "imposed" terms sanction "pseudo-secularism", "vote-bank politics" and "minority appearement".

September also witnessed a new low in the Indian politics, when during a debate in the lower house of the parliament, a BJP MP – Ramesh Bidhuri hurled casteist expletives against another MP – Kunwar Danish Ali of the BSP. What was more appaling was that viewers could see two senior BJP leaders and ministers Harsh Vardhan and Ravi Shankar Prasad laughing gleefully while Mr Bidhuri was delivering his diatribe. *Hindustan Times* in its editorial, *No place for Hate Speech* opined that Islamophobic comments lower the dignity of the Parliament and pointed to a larger malaise prevailing in the nation.

Indian Express in its editorial on cow vigilantism commented that there is a simple principle that all governments are bound by: Legitimately constituted governments have a monopoly over violence. Put another way, this means that the police and other law enforcement agencies alone have the power to detain and question suspects and investigate crime. By providing sanction in law and practice to cow vigilantes, the Haryana government risks turning policing into a cottage industry that is beyond accountability or checks and balances. Unfortunately, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand too have provisions to provide "official" identification to "genuine" gau rakshaks. They must realise that even the most genuine "cow protector" will only ever be a dangerously make-believe policeperson.

September also witnessed a new low in the Indian politics, when during a debate in the lower house of the Parliament. a BJP MP - Ramesh Bidhuri hurled casteist *expletives* against another MP - Kunwar Danish Ali of the BSP



Free speech is about putting forth views without prosecution fear, journalists cannot be prosecuted for promoting enmity between different communities or groups over articles they write: Supreme **Court** 



RSS ideologue Ram Madhav in his article, *Targeting Sanatan Dharma*, *deliberately misreading Hinduism*, for the *Indian Express* commented that challenging caste hierarchy is necessary. But using it to demonise *Sanatan Dharma* is ignorance. He further opined that Hindu - or *Sanatanphobia*, which the Hindu American Foundation in the US describes as a "set of antagonistic, destructive, and derogatory attitudes

and behaviours" towards *Sanatan Dharma*, is a disorder rearing its head globally. As the influence of the Hindu ecosystem grows in Bharat's public life, its detractors have started resorting to Hinduphobic attacks through events like the Dismantling Global Hindutva conference in 2021. Commenting on the current controversy which stemmed from Tamil Nadu, he said that we now witness such trends in Bharat also. Statements by DMK leaders in Tamil Nadu equating *Sanatan Dharma* and Hinduism with the plague, malaria and dengue and insisting on "eradicating" it betray the ugly face of Hinduphobia. To mollify his critiques he opined that South India in general, and Tamil Nadu in particular, has produced many great saints and scholars who occupy a place of pride in the *Sanatan* hierarchy.

In yet another welcome statement the Supreme Court said that free speech is about putting forth views without prosecution fear, adding that journalists cannot be prosecuted for promoting enmity between different communities or groups over articles they write. As it set about to examine why a first information report (FIR) against the president and fact-finding team members of *Editors Guild of India* (EGI) for publishing an allegedly inflammatory report on ethnic clashes between the Meiti and Kuki communities in Manipur should not be quashed, the top court underscored the importance of free speech and press freedom, saying even a factually incorrect report may not attract a penal offence under Section





153A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). On 4<sup>th</sup> September, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh accused the body of 'instigating more clashes' in the state through its "biased" fact-finding report on the violence. The EGI released a report of its 'Fact-Finding Mission on Media's Reportage of the Ethnic Violence in Manipur'

on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, claiming that the media's reports on the ethnic violence in Manipur were one-sided and accused the state leadership of being partisan. The EGI team found "clear indications" to show how the leadership of the state became "partisan" during the conflict which witnessed the executive, bureaucracy, police and other security forces divided along ethnic lines.

In a reprimand to the U.P. government over Muzaffarnagar child slapping incident, the Supreme Court castigated the Uttar Pradesh government for a "prima facie failure" to comply with the mandate of the Right To Education (RTE) Act, the Supreme Court directed the state government to immediately appoint a senior Indian Police Officer (IPS) to monitor the investigation into a case lodged against a woman teacher, who allegedly encouraged her students to slap a classmate and made communal remarks at a private school.

In a rather candid statement days after the arrest of Mohammed Zubair, the co-founder of fact-checking website *Alt News*, on charges of promoting religious enmity in a tweet dating back to 2018, the German Foreign Ministry referred to the case and said "journalists should not be persecuted and imprisoned for what they say and write". The spokesperson at

Supreme Court directed the U.P. state government to monitor the investigation into a case lodged against a woman teacher, who allegedly encouraged her students to slap a classmate and made communal remarks at a private school, in Muzaffarnagar, U.P.





Bidhuri's Hate
Speech also
touches off a
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head from
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a wider
reckoning:
Indian Express

the German ministry said that they are in contact with European Union partners, and freedom of press is part of discussions between the EU and India. Hours later, India responded with a terse statement that "uninformed comments are unhelpful and should be avoided".

The Indian Express in its editorial on MP Bidhuri's hateful speech opined that Bidhuri's hate speech also touches off a deeper set of worries. Ever since the BJP-led government came to power at the Centre, these concerns have raised their head from time to time, and demanded a wider reckoning. They have to do with the climate of apparent impunity for minority-baiting and worse by those who belong to the ruling establishment, or are seen to be patronised and protected by it. Hearing after hearing, the Supreme Court has warned, advised, appealed, sought answers and explanations. Yet, too often, at the highest echelons of power, assertions of outright prejudice by those they call their own, have been met with a blind eye and/or a deaf ear. This draws

unflattering attention, too, to the vigorous projection of India as an exemplar, abroad, of a diverse and inclusive democracy.

Washington Post in an article Inside the vast digital campaign by Hindu nationalists to inflame India by Gerry Shih, its Delhi Bureau Chief commented that the BJP and





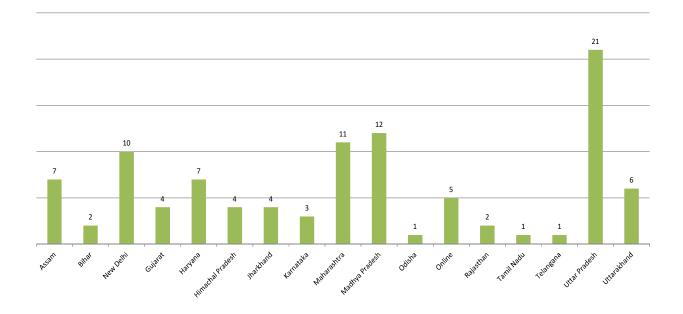
affiliated Hindu nationalist groups have been in the global vanguard of using technology

to advance political aims, tightening their grip with an ideology that imperils India's traditional secularism and equality among religious faiths. Disinformation and divisive, often bigoted online posts and videos are rampant. Government censorship of critical views has been on the rise. Social media platforms and other Big Tech firms, protective of their position in one of the world's largest markets, have often given Modi and his allies what they want. It further opined that despite concerns over repression and accelerating autocracy, the Biden administration has been actively courting Modi, hoping that India can help contain Chinese expansionism in the Indo-Pacific region. Central to the success of the BJP, a party with 180 million members, is a massive messaging machine built on top of U.S. social media platforms. It is part of a wider effort by the right-wing forces aligned with Modi to wield technology in various ways - and restrict its use by opponents - in pursuit of a Hindu nationalist agenda that seeks to marginalise religious minorities and suppress criticism. As hate speech and disinformation in India have grown in recent years, Silicon Valley giants have at times tried to police this incendiary content. But often they have struggled - or willingly turned a blind eye.

BJP and affiliated Hindu nationalist groups have been in the global vanguard of using technology to advance political aims, tightening their grip with an ideology that imperils India's traditional secularism and equality: Washington Post



## State-wise Number of 101 Hate Crime Cases reported in July 2023



Hate Crime and Hate Speech Cases reported in July 2023

Web portal *thescroll.in* reported on 1<sup>st</sup> July from Mumbai's New Panvel that on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, Secretary of Nil Angan Cooperative Housing Society, was arrested by the Police for trying to falsely implicate a Muslim flat owner as being connected to the banned organisation - PFI. The Khandeshwar Police in Navi Mumbai said that Eknath Kawde, pasted the notices outside some flats after he had a dispute with one of the flat owners. One of the flat owners, a Hindu, had rented his flat to a Muslim family, and Kawde allegedly wanted to implicate them. The police arrested Kawde under Section 153 of the IPC.

The Times of India reported on 1st July a case of physical attack, as per reports a group of Hindu activists associated with a right-wing Hindu organisation stopped Yasin, Saddam, Zubair, Rashid and Salim, and dragged out five of them from the truck in which they were travelling, on suspicion of transporting cow meat in U.P.'s Ghaziabad. The local Police instead of taking action against the vigilantes, booked Yasin, Saddam, Zubair, Rashid, and Salim, under Section 429 of the IPC and relevant provisions of the U.P. Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, showing clearly the high handedness and partisan way of functioning of the U.P. Police.

We portal *thehindustangazette.com* and several media platforms on 1<sup>st</sup> July shared a video, in which Hindutva activists could be seen protesting against Jnanasagar International school for celebrating Eid-ul Adha in Karnataka's Hassan District. However, the school Management Committee clarified that they





organise school functions to celebrate religious festivals of every religion to make the students aware of the country's diversity and create an atmosphere of peace and spirituality amongst the students.

TV channels *HornbillTV* and *India Today-NE* on 1<sup>st</sup> July reported from Silchar, Assam that on the occasion of the Eid-ul Adha, cow vigilante groups in Assam's Silchar district resorted to unprovoked violence, disrupted public activities, created ruckus and ransacked Muslim homes while shouting 'Jai Shree Ram' on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The district administration and Silchar Police launched a campaign to contain the violence and restore normalcy in the area.

Web portal *thequint.com* reported an incident from Mundra, Gujarat on 1<sup>st</sup> July, where a school principal got suspended for permitting staging a school play by school students on the occasion of Eid-ul Adha. A video that went viral on social media shows students wearing skull caps and performing the play. District Primary Education Officer, Sanjay Parmar was quoted as saying that it was a "lowly act" to "ask Hindu students to wear skullcaps worn by Muslims." The incident apparently shows the depth of intolerance even by an Education Officer, for an act which symbolised the diversity of our country.

Web portal *theobserverpost.com* on 2<sup>nd</sup> July reported a distressing incident from Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, which happened on 17<sup>th</sup> June when a violent Hindu mob tied two Muslim men with rope, shaved their beards, physically

On the occasion of the Eid-ul Adha. cow vigilante groups in Assam's Silchar district resorted to unprovoked violence, disrupted public activities, created ruckus and ransacked Muslim homes while shouting 'Jai Shree Ram'



On 17th June merely 3 kms away from the Chief Minister's residence in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, a violent Hindu mob tied two Muslim men with ropes, shaved their beards, and physically assaulted them besides forcing them to chant 'Jai Shree Ram'



assaulted them and forced them to chant 'Jai Shree Ram'. The incident took place merely 3 kms away from the Chief Minister's residence. The victims, Mohd. Abuzar and Irshad alleged that "A massive crowd of approximately 500 people assembled, forcibly stripped us of our trousers, bound us with ropes, and subjected us to a degrading walk through piles of garbage." The local Police registered a case against two identified individuals, namely Jitua and Rasan Jena,

along with 20 unknown suspects under Sections 341, 384, 307 & 427 of the IPC.

Web portal *newsclick.com* on 4<sup>th</sup> July reported yet another case of custodial death of a Muslim man in U.P.'s Baghpat. The victim, Sajjad Abbasi, was accused and arrested in a gambling case by the local Police. According to the family's version Sajjad left home on 2<sup>nd</sup> July with some friends, but later in the day they received his tortured body. The family maintains that Abbasi was brutally beaten to the extent that he died in the police custody. His mother said, "He was accused of gambling, but which law kills people for gambling? Moreover, my son was not a gambler." However, the Police denied the charge by the deceased's family. And so far no action has been taken against the police officer involved in torturing Sajjad Abbasi.

Hindi daily *Amar Ujala* and YouTube channel *livehindustan* reported on 4<sup>th</sup> July that a Muslim resident of Faridabad, Haryana has alleged that Bajrang Dal people took away his cattle stock including 60 cows and 17 goats on allegation of animal cruelty. However, police denied the allegation, saying that local residents approached the police and made complaint against Jamat Ali who owned them. Perplexingly, an FIR has been registered against Jamat Ali's family and not the alleged BD activists.





*The Indian Express* on 4<sup>th</sup> July reported another incident of Police atrocity from U.P.'s Hapur district where two communities pelted stones on each other after a heated argument between two neighbours over the stationing of a bullock cart by a Muslim resident outside a Hindu-owned house, turned violent. Acting on a police complaint, police arrested eight of them, all Muslims - Shahrukh, Mohammad Umar, Naushad, Asif, Shufian, Ikhlaq, Ashraf, and Sonu and sent them to 14 days judicial custody and are planning to invoke NSA against them.

*The Indian Express* reported from Kanpur, U.P. on 4<sup>th</sup> July, that as many as 40 people were booked for offering Namaaz on roads during Eid-ul Adha prayers, in Kanpur alone. Police said, the action was taken despite a government directive against indulging in this practice of offering prayers on roads.

Twitterati shared another video on the social media channels on 3<sup>rd</sup> July which shows members of Baring Dal, an extremist right-wing organisation, engaged in a scuffle with local Muslims in Police presence in Mewat's Dhauj, Haryana. These goons were also seen threatening and abusing Muslims at the Police station.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 3<sup>rd</sup> July shared a video on its twitter handle in which Bajrang Dal leaders delivered a Hate Speech at Chamba, H.P., justifying boycott of the Muslim community in Himachal Pradesh. These hate preachers also warned local Hindus not to rent homes and shops within the locality to any Muslim.

Web portals *sabrangindia.net* and maktoobmedia.com on 3<sup>rd</sup> July reported a yet another case of hatred against Muslims

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Milind Ekbote of Samast Hindu Aghadi delivered a Hate Speech at Maharashtra's Malegaon, claiming, "If you make our Hindu girls recite 'Kalima' in Sayajirao Gaekwad College, we will also come to your madrassas and read Hanuman Chalisa"



from Uttarakhand's Dehradun. A video posted on the social media channels showed a Muslim juice seller being harassed and heckled by a female Hindutva activist. She can be heard saying, "I do not eat or drink anything that is made by a Muslim. We do not eat anything that has been spit upon."

A Twitter handle @igopalswami on 3<sup>rd</sup> July shared a video from an unknown location of Himachal Pradesh, in which a radical Hindutva leader can be seen giving a provocative speech, asking Hindus to keep eyes on Muslims and check

their Aadhar cards. He further said "हिमांचल में जिहादियों को तीस दिन का अल्टीमेटम दिया गया है। नहीं मानने पर हिंदू समाज द्वारा भरोको—टोको—ठोको की नीति अपनाने का निर्णय लिया गया है।" (Muslims have been given a 30 days ultimatum to leave Himachal Pradesh, after that it'll be 'Stop, Ask and Shoot'."

Web portals *sabrangindia.in* and *hindutvawatch.org* reported yet another incident of Hate Speech from Maharashtra's Malegaon. A video of the hate speech delivered by Milind Ekbote of *Samast Hindu Aghadi* organisation shows him saying, "If you make our Hindu girls recite 'Kalima' in Sayajirao Gaekwad College, we will also come to your madrassa and read Hanuman Chalisa. Friends, I have come here to tell you that the whole of Maharashtra is with the Hindus of Malegaon. For many years, these 'Jihadis' committed atrocities in Kashmir, but eventually, all their atrocities came to an end and the tricolour was hoisted at Lal Chowk in Srinagar."

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 4<sup>th</sup> July reported another case of physical and mental harassment of a Muslim man in Telangana's Gajwel town. The man was made to parade semi-naked and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' for urinating near the Shivaji statue by a group of radical crowd linked to Bajrang Dal, Vishva Hindu Parishad





(VHP), and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Later, the police reached the spot and intervened to control the situation, though no action was taken against those involved in manhandling the accused.

The Times of India on 5th July reported an incident of physical intimidation from Bulandshahar, U.P. The incident in which a 45-years-old Muslim man Mohammed Ehsaan from Bihar was physically attacked by a mob of 50 people while he was collecting donation for a madrassa. A video related to this incident also came to light in which locals were seen forcibly checking the Muslim man's Aadhar card and making him sing the National Anthem to prove his loyalty and nationality. However, the local Police booked Ehsaan under Section 151 of the CrPC and imposed a fine on him. He was later released on bail.

Web portal *newsclick.com* on 6<sup>th</sup> July reported a case of state-sponsored discriminatory practices from U.P.'s Muzaffarnagar city, where to avoid offending Kanwars, (an annual pilgrimage undertaken by followers of Hindu God Shiva to bring back water from River Ganges from the upper reaches of the Himalayan mountains, barefoot) the local administration not only ordered closing down the meat shops in the city but they were also asked to put-up a black cloth over the shops. When a group of Muslims went to the local Police Station to discuss the issue, all 114 people were booked under Section 151 of the IPC, and the Police officials were not even ready to talk to them about the issue.

In U.P.'s Muzaffarnagar city, to avoid offending Kanwarias. the local administration not only ordered closing down the meat shops in the city but they were also asked to putup a black cloth over the shop's signages



The principal of DY Patil High School, Pune, Maharashtra was assaulted by Hindutva activists in the school premises for allegedly forcing the students of his school to recite Christian prayers



The New Indian Express reported on 6<sup>th</sup> July that the principal of DY Patil High School, Pune, Maharashtra was assaulted by Hindutva activists in the school premises at Talegaon Dabhade area. The principal, Alexander Coates, was attacked by the mob and arrested by the police for allegedly forcing the students of his school to recite Christian prayers.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July on Twitter, a video surfaced which showed an Islamophobic song depicting Hindu gods targeting Makkah and Madinah went viral, to spread anti-Muslim sentiments amongst communities.

Web portal *newslaundary:com* reported a case of institutional discrimination from Pune's Malwa Taluka on 7th July, where a Muslim man was denied permission by the local municipal authorities to construct a new house. Kasim Mulla, a 73-years-old from Ambegaon in Katraj, had purchased a 4,000-square-foot plot, 50 km away in Kambre Nama village of Mawal Taluka 10 years ago. He initially constructed a 10 by 10 feet structure in April 2023, and applied for its registration in June, as per the house tax rules, to get basic amenities such as power, water, etc. "Registration cannot be done because the concerned person is from the religion of Islam," Kambre Nama, sarpanch (village headman) Vaishali Gaikwad, and deputy sarpanch (deputy headman) Somnath Gaikwad wrote on the front page of the application, and rejected the application. This attitude from local Hindu administrators towards the Muslims shows the level of hate and discrimination, which has percolated down so deep in our society, unfortunately.

Fact-checking unit of web portal *indiatoday.in* reported on 7<sup>th</sup> July about a video of a bearded man giving a provocative speech against Islam making rounds on social media. In fact, the speech was not made by a Muslim scholar but by a Hindu





preacher. In the clip that was little more than two minutes long, the man implored Hindus to read their own scriptures and asked why 90 crore Hindus were scared of 25 crore Muslims in India. He asked if their faith had taught Hindus to do nothing

when their "mothers and sisters are killed and made the target of love jihad." AFWA's investigation found that the man is not a Muslim scholar. He is a Hindu preacher called Acharya Prashant Sharma who regularly opines on Hindu issues through videos on social media. AFWA contacted Sharma, a resident of Morena, Madhya Pradesh, who confirmed that it was him in the video. "It is my video. I had posted a small chunk from a longer video on Twitter and that has become viral. Now people from WhatsApp university are sharing it as a remark from a Muslim scholar," Sharma said.

The Indian Express on 8th July reported a case of urinating on a man belonging to a tribal community in M.P.'s Sidhi district. Later, the Police arrested Pravesh Shukla, accused of urinating on the victim, Dashmat Rawat, after a video of the incident went viral on social media platforms. Following which the police registered a case against the accused and arrested him.

TV channel *ZeeNews* on 8<sup>th</sup> July, reported an incident of physical attack from Gwalior, M.P. In a video shared on Twitter, some unidentified miscreants were seen beating a Muslim youth, Mohsin, and forced him to lick their feet. As per the ZeeNews coverage, police and M.P. government are investigating the case, but no FIR has been filed so far.

A video of a bearded man. ostensibly a Muslim giving a provocative speech against Islam made rounds on social media. On fact checking, it was found that he was not a Muslim scholar but a Hindu preacher



In M.P.'s
Shajapur town,
some upper
caste Hindu
miscreants
allegedly
objected to a
DJ playing at
the marriage
of a Dalit,
which led to
a communal
clash



TV channel *News18* on 9<sup>th</sup> July reported a horrific incident from U.P.'s Sonbhadra district, where a man belonging to the Dalit community was slapped and forced to lick the slippers

of an upper-caste person, following an altercation. The video further showed the victim was also forced to perform sit-ups holding his ears. As per the report, the Police booked the accused Tejbali Singh involved in the incident, under the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Act (Prevention of Atrocity Act) 1989 (SC/ST Act), along with other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

*The Times of India* on 9<sup>th</sup> July reported a case of stone pelting from M.P.'s Shajapur town, where some upper caste Hindu miscreants allegedly objected to a DJ playing at the marriage of a Dalit, which led to a communal clash. The Police registered an FIR naming people from both the sides.

Hindustan Times of 9<sup>th</sup> July reported a case of moral policing from Davangere, Karnataka, where two radical men physically assaulted two Muslim men while they were going to watch a movie with a Hindu female friend. As per the Police account, "They assaulted Mohammed Subani (22) and Ibrahim (21) for accompanying a Hindu girl to a cinema theatre in Davanagere on Thursday. The accused also made a video of the assault and shared it on social media. After the video clip went viral, the girl filed a police complaint on Friday." The Davanagere Police arrested two people - Dodesh and Lingaraju for allegedly assaulting two men from the Muslim community and engaging in moral policing.

Web portals *clarionindia.net*, *hindutvawatch.org*, and *sabrangindia.in* on 9<sup>th</sup> July reported a case from H.P., accompanied with a video clip which shows a *Hindu Janjagran Manch* leader Kamal Gautam delivering a Hate Speech against Muslims, claiming he got a masjid demolished in Bilaspur a few days back, pitched for an





economic boycott of Muslims and threatened violence. Curiously, Gautam is also a teacher in a government school and as per laws he is not entitled to deliver or take part in such activity, but still no action has been taken against him.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 10<sup>th</sup> July reported another case of Islamophobia and hatred against Muslims in Chaukhutia, Almora, Uttarakhand. In the video, right-wing Hindu groups while organising a rally against "love jihad," are heard making hate slogans against Muslims like, "मुल्लो का ना काजी का ये देश है वीर शिवा जी का" (This country doesn't belong to Mullahs and Qazis (Muslims), it is the country of Veer Shivaji (Hindus)).

Times of India reported on 11th July that in a video shared on Twitter from Muzaffarnagar, U.P. a group of women could be seen talking to the media that a minor gril, Naghma, was kidnaped by Satish with the help of his friends. Her (Naghma's) mother alleged that, entire family is involved in this matter. As per her account, no action has been taken by the Police, even though an FIR was lodged with the Police. Police said a case has been registered against all the three accused under IPC sections 354 (Assault or criminal force to outrage her modesty), 363 (Punishment for kidnapping), and Pocso Act (Protection of children from sexual offence Act) at Nagar Kotwali police station, and they have been sent to jail after being produced in the court.

Web portals hindutvawatch.org and cjp.org.in on 11th

Hindu Janjagran Manch leader Kamal Gautam delivered a Hate Speech against Muslims, claiming he got a masjid demolished in Bilaspur, a few days back and pitched for an economic boycott of **Muslims** 



Kanwariyas
vandalised
a car in
Mangalore,
U.P. alleging
the Muslim
driver hit
them, but a
fact check
found that the
driver was a
Hindu not a



July reported about a video posted on Twitter which shows Kajal Shingala aka Kajal Hindustani, a notorious hate preacher, delivering a Hate Speech against the Muslim community at an event in Anand, Gujarat, urging Hindus to get awakened and act against the Muslims besides peddling various other anti-Muslim contentious theories.

Hindustan Times reported on 12<sup>th</sup> July about an incident from Mangalore town, Haridwar in Uttarakhand. The incident took place on 10<sup>th</sup> July and as per reports, a mob of Kanwariyas (devotees of Lord Shiva) in Mangalore vandalised a car and attacked the driver after one of the Kanwariya devotee was allegedly hit by the car, as per the video posted on social media. The attack occurred amid police presence, however, the Haridwar police issued a statement on Facebook and denied any communal angle in the incident. The Police statement said that, "This incident has no connection with any particular community and on the complaint of local resident Pratap Singh, the owner of the damaged car, the Haridwar Police have registered a case and arrested two persons in the said case, and the legal action is on", this showed that the car driver was not a Muslim but a Hindu, contrary to what was being circulated on the social media channels to create communal animosity.

Web portal *theobserverpost.com* on 12<sup>th</sup> July reported a case of physical attack on a Muslim from Rajasthan's Bhilwara city. According to the report, a Muslim man was beaten and forced to chant, 'Jai Shri Ram', a Hindu religious slogan by a group of assailants on 8<sup>th</sup> July in Bhilwara. Saheb Ali Khan - 21, suffered severe injuries and physical trauma after the assault. They attackers also hurled derogatory slurs at him, referring to him as a "katwa," aimed at insulting his religious identity. The police have filed a case against seven individuals, under Sections 143, 323, 341, 307 and 295A of the IPC.





Web portal *thenewsminute.com* reported another incident of custodial death from Chennai Tamil Nadu on 19th July A 25-years-old Dalit

from Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 12<sup>th</sup> July. A 25-years-old Dalit man named Sridhar died hours after the MGR Nagar police in Chennai questioned him. In the last two years, this is the third instance in Chennai, where an individual has died hours after police interrogation. Sridhar's family members have raised questions regarding the circumstances leading to his death waiting for the postmortem report. The Chennai police have registered a case under Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and an investigation is underway.

Web portal *siasat.com* on 12<sup>th</sup> July reported yet another case of religious discrimination and Islamophobia from Sonkatch, M.P. A Hindutva group named *Sarva Hindu Samaj* organised a rally in opposition to a shop located in the MG Market area and claims were made that the shop was allegedly constructed on encroached land. However, denying the claims, members of a Muslim organisation in Sonkatch said the shop was built with proper paperwork and registration with local authorities. This shows that even on a slightest pretext the Hindu majority can organise action against the minorities, anywhere in India, and they will not be blamed at all.

Web portals *hindutvawatch.org*, *cjp.org.in* and *siasat.com* on 12<sup>th</sup> July reported that a rally was jointly organised at Dhanbad, Jharkhand, by *Hindu Janajagruti* and *Tarun Hindu*, two local Hindu organisations to protest against the Waqf Board Act and

In a custodial death reported from Chennai. Tamil Nadu on 12th July, a 25-yearsold Dalit man named Sridhar died hours after the MGR Nagar police in Chennai questioned him. In the last two years, this is the third instance of custodial death reported from Chennai



Hindu Janajagruti and Tarun Hindu, two local Hindu organisations of Jharkhand linked the Muslim's Waqf **Board Act to** the perceived conspiracy of "Land Jihad" and demanded repeal of the Waqf Board Act



the perceived conspiracy of "Land Jihad." As per the details, participants demanded the repeal of the Waqf Board Act and the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in the country, the two electoral promises made by the ruling BJP for next year's general elections, showing that the ground level work has already started for the next general elections.

Web portals *clarionindia.net* and *sabrangindia.in* on 12<sup>th</sup> July reported a yet another instance of hate speech delivered by right-wing leaders at an event held at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, organised by AHP-International Hindu Parishad, lead by Pravin Togadia. At the event, Hindutva leaders unabashedly issued explicit calls for violence against Muslims calling them 'jihadi' in a derogatory manner. One of the speakers, Samiksha Singh can be heard saying "every Jihadi will lose when a Kattar (hardline) Hindu will kill. Another said, "They just have one goal which is 'Ghazwa-e Hind'. We should also have one goal which is to establish *Akhand Hindu Bharat – A Unified india*".

Web portal *journomirror.com* on 13<sup>th</sup> July based on a tweet reported an incident from Bihar's Sitamarhi's Bathnaha police station where a Maktab (Madrassa) was vandalised by extremist Hindus and the madrassa students and Maulana were physically attacked. As per twitter video, the entire Madrassa was put on fire, after miscreants demolished it. Though the local Police registered a case against unidentified men, but so far no arrests have been made.

Web portal *maktoobmedia.com* on 13<sup>th</sup> July, reported another incident of mob lynching from Jasola, New Delhi. Tauqeer Ahmed Khan, a 24-years-old Muslim youth alleged that he was beaten by men wearing saffron scarves in the national capital in broad daylight. As per the victim's account, "I was going to Jasola in an





e-rickshaw. As I stepped off it, at around 3 pm, some men came towards me and started beating me even before I could ask or speak anything." Even after a written complaint, Police did not file an FIR in the case.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 13<sup>th</sup> July reported an incident covered by US-based IAMC, according to which, Bajrang Dal members from Jharkhand's Jamtara area, tied a Muslim man's hands with rope and interrogated him over suspicion of carrying beef. In a video of the incident, the Muslim man can be seen being assaulted by Bajrang Dal goons questioning him about his identity and presence in the area.

Hindustan Times of 15<sup>th</sup> July reported yet another case of Islamophobia from Bengaluru, Karnataka. In a video shared on social media, an unidentified woman was heard asking a bus conductor if his skullcap is a part of his government uniform. To this, the man said that he has been wearing it for several years and that anyone can wear it if they wish to do so. She further said, "You can follow your religion in the comfort of your home, but is this cap a part of your uniform? You should not wear it if it is not," Islamophobia from Bengaluru, Karnataka. In a video shared on social media, an unidentified woman was heard asking a bus conductor if his skullcap is a part of his government uniform. To this, the man members from Jharkhand's Jamtara area, tied a Muslim and forced the conductor to remove his skullcap.

Web portals *bbc.com* and *thewire.in* reported an Islamophobic incident from Guwahati, Assam, that Assam's Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma once again made anti-Muslim remarks blaming Miyan (Muslims) vegetable sellers for the increased prices of vegetables in the state. He said, "Who are the people who have increased the prices of vegetables now? It is Miyan sellers who are selling vegetables at higher rates". He was also

Bajrang Dal members from Jharkhand's Jamtara area, tied a Muslim man's hands with rope and interrogated him over suspicion of carrying beef



On 15th July local Hindus demanded a ban on the entry of Muslims to offer namaaz in the 800 years old Jumma Masjid by the local administration in Jalgaon's Erandol, Maharashtra



heard saying, "We all have seen how the movement of buses in Guwahati city reduces during Eid, when less crowds are seen. Because most of the bus and cab drivers are from the Miyan community".

Web portal *thewire.in* on 15<sup>th</sup> July reported a news related to the ban on the entry of Muslims to offer namaaz in the 800 years old Jumma Masjid by the local administration in Jalgaon's Erandol, Maharashtra. The 800-years-old structure is an important place of worship in northern Maharashtra and a property registered under the Waqf Board. But it has suddenly become inaccessible to the community after the District Collector passed an interim restraining order while hearing a complaint filed by a right-wing Hindu organisation. The collector issued the order under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, immediately banning prayers at the premises. In the order, the collector also directed police deployment in the area. Moreover, the collector asked the Tahsildar to take charge of the mosque, which he described as a "disputed" property.

Yet another video was shared on Twitter on 15<sup>th</sup> July of a Hate Speech being given by Pushpendra Kulshreshta. In the video, he can be heard spreading hatred among Hindus by digging out what B.R. Ambedkar had said about Muslims in a different context. He said, "Indian Muslims should be sent to Pakistan. If Muslims reside in India, then there will be no peace. Burqa causes sexual perversion among Muslims. A Muslim cannot be a patriot".

A video was shared on Twitter on 16<sup>th</sup> July, which showed Anand Ranganathan, an author, delivering a speech where he spoke against the Waqf Board and demanded the government to change the Waqf Board Act, besides spreading misleading claims about the Waqf Board.





On 16th July, a video was shared on Twitter, of a Hate Speech being delivered by a right-wing female leader. In the video, she was seen requesting all the Hindus to spend 1,000 rupees to buy a sword and keep it at home so that no infidel (referring to Muslims) will gaze at you (कम से कम 1 हजार रुपए की तलवार लेकर घर में जरूर रखना ताकि कोई विधर्मी तुम्हारी तरफ आंख उठा कर ना देखे।)

Web portal etvbharat.com on 16th July reported an incident of state sponsored

discriminatory practice from U.P.'s Muzaffarnagar, where a masjid's Imam and 25 others were booked for offering Namaaz on the road. As per the report, Maulana Naseem, Imam of Rehman Masjid, was arrested under IPC's Section 341 (wrongful restraint), additional SP Ayush Vikram Singh said. He said the police is trying to identify the other offenders with the help of a viral video.

Web portal *sabrangindia.in* reported from Solapur, Maharashtra on 17<sup>th</sup> July, about a case of a Hate Speech delivered at an event at Solapur. Sakal Hindu Samaj organised a Hindu Janakroash Morcha, where BJP legislator Nitesh Rane delivered a Hate Speech targeting Muslims. He said, "If anyone dares to praise Aurangzeb, we will book a place for you in the graveyard."

Web portal *sabrangindia.in* on 17<sup>th</sup> July reported a yet another Hate Speech delivered by right-wing leaders at an event organised in Delhi. A *Hindu Mahapanchayat* organised by *Sarva Hindu Samaj* in New Delhi took a disturbing turn when far-right speakers delivered inflammatory speeches,

A right-wing female leader was seen in a video, requesting all Hindus to spend 1,000 rupees to buy a sword and keep it at home so that no infidel (Muslim) will be able to gaze at them



A Hindu Mahapanchayat organised by Sarva Hindu Samai in New Delhi took a disturbing turn when farright speakers delivered inflammatory speeches, allegedly calling for violence against minorities



allegedly calling for violence against minorities. The event raised concerns over increased communal tensions and the potential for further escalation of hate-driven incidents in the country. One of the speakers drew parallels to the past events in Gujarat being repeated elsewhere.

The Indian Express on 18th July reported another shocking incident of custodial death of a Muslim youth from Jharkhand's Hazaribagh area. As per the IE, the 25-years-old Muslim man, Manzar Khan was arrested by the police on charges of theft and kept in the lock-up overnight. While he was still in custody, the police said, he strangled himself with a rope; however, the family of the deceased denied the charge and claimed it was a clear case of custodial death. Followed by the complaint, a Sub-Inspector posted at Barhi police station was suspended following the controversy and Hazaribagh police wrote to the Deputy Commissioner for a judicial inquiry. The state's Crime Investigation Department (CID) has been entrusted with the investigation.

India Today on 18<sup>th</sup> July reported a case of police atrocity from Gujarat's Patan city, where a communal clash broke out over a social media post, leaving eight people injured. While the police have not disclosed the content of the social media post that triggered the clash at Balisana town on the night of 16<sup>th</sup> July, sources said it was about the Bollywood movie 'The Kerala Story'. The police took some of the arrested accused to the Masjid Chowk area in Balisana and paraded them where the incident took place. A video of this police exercise was called "reconstructing the crime scene".

*The Times of India* on 19<sup>th</sup> July reported another incident of mistreating an interfaith couple from Haryana's Faridabad. Members of Bajrang Dal, barged into





a hotel in Faridabad and manhandled an interfaith couple over fake identity card submitted by the Muslim youth, as per the TOI report. The Muslim man was later handed over to the police and was booked under IPC sections 463 and 464. This clearly violates the privacy of citizens.

Web portal *sabrangindia.in* on 20<sup>th</sup> July reported about a contentious Hate Speech delivered by Suresh Chavhanke of Sudarshan News from Greater NOIDA at an event hosted by Dhirendra Shastri. Chavhanke while addressing the crowd spoke on religious matters, particularly targeting Muslim places of worship. 'The resolution by Maharaj ji of bringing Mathura's idols to Agra's mosque was mentioned in Geeta, we have to liberate two more temples – Mathura and Kashi. It was Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's aim to liberate 300,000 temples".

Web portal *scroll.in* on 20<sup>th</sup> July reported an incident from M.P.'s Ujjain where homes of three Muslims were bulldozed for allegedly spilling water at a Hindu religious procession. As per PTI, the police registered a case against three persons on charges of disturbing communal harmony after a purported video of them spilling water at a Hindu religious procession, called *Baba Mahakal Sawari*, surfaced on social media. The authorities also called in drummers when the houses were being bulldozed. Two of the accused persons were minors who have been sent to a juvenile home. The third accused has been remanded to the judicial custody, the police said. This is a

Suresh Chavhanke of Sudarshan News at an event hosted by Dhirendra Shastri, said we should target Muslim places of worship, and we still have to liberate two more temples - Mathura and Kashi



Aaj Tak on 20th July reported an event from Gosainganj, Lucknow, U.P., organised by Hindu Yuva Manch, which reportedly showed 8 Muslim girls allegedly converting to Hinduism and marrying Hindu men. both the organisers and the brides described it as a Ghar Wapsi event



clear-cut example of state sponsored discriminatory practices against the minorities, where in a novel manner their homes are being bulldozed at the slightest pretext.

TV channel *AajTak* on 20<sup>th</sup> July reported an event from Gosainganj, Lucknow, U.P., organised by *Hindu Yuva Manch* which reportedly showed 8 Muslim girls allegedly converting to Hinduism and marrying Hindu men, both the organisers and the brides described it as a Ghar Wapsi event or 'Reverse Love Jihad'.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, *zeenewsindia.com* reported yet another case of attack on religious spaces from Ayodhya's Faizabad in U.P. A notice was served to Khajur Masjid's management

committee situated at Faizabad, related to the demolition of masjid's minarets, as they were obstructing the proposed Ram Path (Road). It was alleged that the U.P. Government illegally tried to demolish the minarets, though so far no action has been taken on the ground.

Web portal *theprint.in* reported on 20th July that a video, was posted on the social media in which a Police Inspector could be seen physically attacking a 75-years-old Muslim man and demanding him to vacate his shop in U.P.'s Saharanpur city. As per *The Print's* report, In the video, sub-inspector Jitendra Sharma, posted at Qutubsher police station, and three constables can be seen misbehaving with shopkeeper Shamshad Ali, Superintendent of Police (City) Abhimanyu Manglik said. The elderly man has also given a complaint to the Qutubshah er police station alleging that he owns a shop since 1975, whose rent he has been paying to the Municipal Corporation. He alleged that a woman has been trying to capture his





shop and the policemen are also involved in this, the SP said. The Uttar Pradesh Police has ordered an inquiry into the matter, police officials said.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 21<sup>st</sup> July that a video circulating on social media shows members of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and

Bajrang Dal distributing flyers propagating the conspiracy theory of "Love Jihad" amongst the students, fuelling anti-Muslim sentiments in Najafgarh, New Delhi.

A video surfaced on Twitter on 21<sup>st</sup> July in which a radically motivated passenger could be seen creating a ruckus on a flight regarding Halal certification. The person could be heard saying, "it's my festival and you should not serve halal certified food to Hindus, it hurts our religious sentiment".

Web portal *clarionindia.net* on 21<sup>st</sup> July reported yet another incident of Hate Speech from Maharashtra's Kopargaon. A video was shared on social media, in which habitual hate monger Suresh Chavhanke while addressing *Hindu Hunkar Sabha* delivered an extremely hateful speech against Muslims and Islam. He could be heard targeting Muslim traders and businesses, again harping on his "Spit Jihad" theory. Chavhanke mocked Islam at many points in his speech and warned the Maharashtra government that if loudspeakers used at mosques for Namaaz are not banned, then the Hindus will get their own loudspeakers stationed at strategic places, to raise the religious chant of "Har Har Mahadev" five times a day.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 21st July reported another

A video surfaced on X showing a radically motivated passenger creating a ruckus on a flight regarding Halal food served to him, saying it hurts Hindus religious sentiments to eat Halal meat



In Bhilwara,
Rajasthan, a
Hate Speech
against the
Muslim
community
was delivered
at an event
organised
by Sakal
Jain Samaj,
condemning
the murder of
a Jain monk in
Karnataka



case of physical attack from M.P.'s Banda, where a right-wing mob brutally assaulted a truck driver for transporting cattle, despite having all the required documents and permission with him. The incident happened in Police presence, but no action was taken against the mob.

*Times of India* and web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported on 21<sup>st</sup> July from Bhilwara, Rajasthan, about another Hate Speech against the Muslim community delivered at an event organised by *Sakal Jain Samaj* against the murder of a Jain monk in Karnataka. One of the speakers can be seen threatening Muslims of violence and to face dire consequences.

Web portal *journomirror.com* reported from Naugaon district, Assam on 21<sup>st</sup> July where Assam police opened fire at poor Muslim flood victims as a result of which, a Muslim woman Rahima Khatoon lost her life and three other individuals got wounded during a confrontation between the evicted residents and forest department officials. As per the report, the clash occurred when the displaced residents went back to their makeshift settlement due to flood inundation.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported another case of Hate Speech from U.P.'s Agra, where Rashtriya Hindu Parishad leader, Govind Prashar spewed hatred against the Muslim community in India.

TV channel *EtvBharat* on 21<sup>st</sup> July reported about a video which surfaced on social media, showing some radical Hindus raising communal slogans with the intent to spoil communal harmony while passing through a Muslim majority area in Jharkhand's Chatra. These self-styled saviours of Hindu religion can be seen raising slogans of "Jai Shree Ram."

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* showed a video on 22<sup>nd</sup> July from Uttarakhand's





Almora district in which right-wing groups took out a rally, where anti-Muslim leaders threatened local Hindus with eviction if they rent their

houses to Muslims from outside the region and also threatened them with potential violence.

Times of India, Hindustan Times and almost all English, Hindi and Urdu newspapers on 22<sup>nd</sup> July carried the report about demolition of a part of the old Bengali Market Masjid and Babar Shah Takiya Masjid in the national capital New Delhi on 21<sup>st</sup> July, Apparently, the Northern Railway administration had reportedly issued notices to the two masjids demanding the removal of encroachments within 15 days. The railway authorities had warned, "if the encroachments are not removed within the stipulated time-frame, they will take necessary action to reclaim their land." The masjid administrations maintain that none of the structures was illegally raised and this was a unilateral action in the wee hours of morning, when no devotees were present at the masjids.

Hindi daily *Nai Dunia* reported from Vidhisha, M.P. that another news of police atrocity was reported from Vidhisha, M.P., where some Muslim youth had gone to police station to complaint about a radical Hindutva activist who had posted offensive remarks against Allah on social media. Instead of taking action against the offender, the Muslim youth were beaten-up by the police. Muslims were protesting against Birjesh Yadav of Sironj Shahar, Vidisha and were demanding an

In Uttarakhand's Almora district a right-wing group took out a rally, threatening local Hindus with eviction if they rent their houses to Muslims from outside the region and also threatened them with potential violence



A Dalit man from Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district's Bikaura village alleged that a man from upper caste whom he had touched unintentionally while cleaning a sewer, smeared his face with human excreta



FIR to be lodged against Birjesh and to arrest him immediately.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 23<sup>rd</sup> July reported and shared another video on its Twitter handle in which, a group of violent, radically motivated Hindu youth could be seen brutally thrashing a Muslim boy for having interfaith relationship in Kotdwar, Haldwani, Uttarakhand.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, a video was shared on Twitter, in which a radical Hindu man could be seen desecrating a Dargah and misbehaving with a Muslim woman in Simrol, Khandwa, M.P.

The Indian Express of 23<sup>rd</sup> July reported a case of caste discrimination. As per the report, a Dalit man in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district's Bikaura village has alleged that a man from another caste whom he had touched unintentionally while cleaning a sewer, smeared his face with human excreta. Ahirwar said that the incident occurred when he was engaged in the construction of a drain for the panchayat in Bikaura village, in M.P. The accused, Ramkripal Patel, was detained following the complaint by Dashrath Ahirwar, a police official said, under IPC Sections 294 (obscene acts or words in public) and 506 (criminal intimidation), and under the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes Act.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, reported a case of Islamophobia and hatred against Muslim community from Muzaffarnagar, U.P., where a Hindu priest Yashvir Maharaj sat on a hunger strike to press local authorities to force Muslim restaurant owners to mention their and their Muslim employees' names on the signage, so that the general public could be aware of their identities.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 24<sup>th</sup> July, reported yet another incident from Bangana, Una, Himachal Pradesh. In the video, shared by Hindutva Watch, members





of VHP and Bajrang Dal could be seen removing signages of a restaurant owned

by a Muslim. There were also seen forcibly shutting down his restaurant because Halal meat was being served there, they further threatened the owner that if you do not mention clearly on a signage that you serve Halal meat then our people would once again remove the hoardings and action will be taken against you.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 24<sup>th</sup> July reported a case of Hate Speech from Osmanabad, Maharashtra. Dhananjay Desai, President of *Hindu Rashtra Sena*, delivered an anti-Muslim Hate Speech at *Hindu Janakrosh Sabha* and said that India should learn from China's genocide of Uyghur Muslims. Notably, Desai was an accused in Mohsin Shaikh lynching case of 2014.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, another Islamophobic video was shared on Twitter in which the viewers were asked to be aware of Muslim girls corrupting the minds of Hindu girls. The caption of the video read: आपकी बेटियों को अब्दुल से ज्यादा खतरा फातिमा और आयेशा से है—ये चित्र जरूर देखए। (Fatima and Ayesha are more dangerous to your daughters than Abdul - Must see this picture). This was clearly an act of online character assassination and fuelling Islamophobia.

*The Hindu* on 24<sup>th</sup> July reported another case of police atrocity from New Delhi's North-West Subhash Nagar police station. A 36-years-old man, Sheikh Sahadat, was arrested

**Dhananjay** Desai. President of Hindu Rashtra Sena, in an Hate Speech delivered at Hindu Janakrosh Sabha, **Osmanabad** said that India should learn from China's genocide of Uyghur Muslims and handle them similarly



At a Rashtriya **Bajrang** Dal event at Sonipat, Haryana, rightwing leaders. including a minor girl, delivered communal speeches calling for dropping of Gandhi's ideals and resorting to violence against minorities



on 21st July under various sections of the Arms Act, he later died in the police custody. According to the police, Sahadat's health deteriorated after which he was immediately rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. However, the deceased's family members accused the police of torturing him in the lockup and alleged that they were not allowed to meet him. They also sought an impartial probe into the matter." Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West) Jitendra Meena

said a procedural inquiry by a magistrate had been initiated in the matter.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 25<sup>th</sup> July reported yet another Hate Speech delivered at an event at Sonipat, Haryana. In a video shared on Twitter, right-wing leaders, including a minor girl, delivered communal speeches calling for dropping Gandhi's ideals and resorting to violence at the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal event.

Web portal *persecution.org* reported on 25<sup>th</sup> July a case of communal attack from Rai Bareily, U.P., as per the report, a mob of radical Hindu nationalists (Hindutva) violently attacked a Christian pastor and his family for allegedly converting villagers to Christianity. The pastor's wife sustained a blow and cut to her head that left her unconscious; she was rushed to the hospital along with others who suffered serious internal injuries. A local source said the pastor and his family were getting ready to begin Sunday sermons when a mob of around 30 radical Hindu nationalists burst into the house-cum-church carrying knives and bamboo sticks. The pastor's wife was injured when she attempted to shield her husband from the assailants, sustaining the head injury. The congregates fled the scene after witnessing the gruesome attack.

Web portal thequint.in on 27th July reported yet another incident of custodial





death from Haryana's Faridabad, where a 30-years-old Shaikul Khan was arrested by the police in connection with a cybercrime case. He was allegedly beaten-up in the police lockup. Shaikul, a resident of Alwar's Tikri village, was being held in Faridabad Police's custody since 20<sup>th</sup> July. Shaikul's brother claimed that his brother was innocent. "He lived in a flat and was studying for competitive exams to get a government job. Why would someone who is preparing for competitive exams commit a cybercrime?" he wondered.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 27<sup>th</sup> July reported from Najafgarh, Delhi about a case of economic boycott of Muslims. A video also shared on YouTube, shows violent members of Bajrang Dal illegally forcing ban on the sale of meat. They were also seen intimidating shop owners by throwing their meat products on the roadside.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 27<sup>th</sup> July reported a yet another hate incident from Nurpur, Himachal Pradesh where Bajrang Dal national convener Neeraj Doneria delivered a communal speech targeting Muslims at a Parshikshan Varg (Training Camp) camp. While addressing the trainees, he was heard speaking about 'Islamic Jihad' and demonising Muslim community by labelling them as fringe elements.

*Deoband Times* on 27<sup>th</sup> July reported a case of physical attack by local rowdies on a Muslim family from Saharanpur, U.P. According to the report, an extremist mob attacked a Gujjar Muslim man and his teenage daughter in a forest. The father was beaten up, while he was trying to save his daughter from being molested. Deoband Police says it is investigating the matter.

In Rai Bareily, U.P., a mob of radical Hindu group attacked a Christian pastor and his family for allegedly converting the villagers to Christianity



Saddam Hussain of Borbari Ahotpam village was lvnched to death by a mob of Hindu residents of Ahotguri village in the Morigaon district of central Assam on suspicion of being a cow thief



*Hindustan Times* on 27<sup>th</sup>July reported from Assam's Ahotpam village in Morigaon district about a Mob Lynching incident. On 25<sup>th</sup> July, Saddam Hussain of Borbari Ahotpam village was lynched to death by a mob of Hindu residents of Ahotguri village in the Morigaon district of central Assam. Saddam along with five Muslim youth was returning from Naramari village, around 7 kms away from their village when

they were attacked by the Hindu mob. Hussain, along with Mirajul Hoque, Anwarul Hoque, Bilal Hussain, Samsul Hoque and Abul Hussain were travelling on bikes after watching the final match of a local kabaddi league, on their way they were stopped and accused of stealing cows, a suspicion the victims who escaped the mob lynching deny. The police have registered a case against five suspects, under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code based on a complaint lodged by the victim's families.

On 28th July, Twitter shared a video from an unknown location in Bihar, in which the family of a deceased Muslim man is seen interacting with media persons. They said that Mohammed Golu was arrested by the Bihar Police on charges of theft, and while in custody, the police tortured him to death.

Web portal *theobserverpost.com* on 28<sup>th</sup> July reported a shocking incident, a 5-years-old Muslim girl living in Uttar Pradesh's Ramnagar town was allegedly raped by a middle-aged man. A man named Rinku Verma from Bhairampur committed the heinous act after kidnapping the girl. When the girl's family realised that she was missing from their home, they began searching for her in the vicinity. During this search, Rinku's 12-years-old son Shivam informed them that his father was responsible for the abduction, leading to the incident becoming public knowledge.





A police case against the accused has been lodged under stringent sections, including POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act).

TV channel *TV9 Bharatvarsh* reported on 28th July that in M.P. a video that went viral on social media claimed that a group of Muslim youth have been arrested over putting up a poster on a Masjid's wall against alleged 'Bhagwa Love' trap. It was alleged that, many Muslim girls from various parts of M.P. are being enticed by Hindutva men and trapped in 'Bhagwa Love' Trap. Allegedly, the Police have arrested a group of Muslim youth on charges of putting up poster warning Muslim girls against 'Bhagwa Love' trap, though so far we have not seen any activity on part of the Police to arrest those who are spreading 'Love Jihad' stories.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 29<sup>th</sup> July reported from Bulandshahar, U.P., where a Bajrang Dal member hurled casteist slurs and physically attacked a Dalit youth, apparently without any provocation.

Assam *Business Standard* on 30<sup>th</sup> July reported about another Hate Speech delivered by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. While addressing media persons he said, "We will have to see if girls are being forcibly converted to another religion and getting married under duress ... We have to bring such marriages under the scope of investigations," he said. "A Qazi (Muslim cleric) cannot register a Hindu-Muslim marriage.

A group of Muslim youth were arrested over putting up a poster on a Masjid's wall against alleged 'Bhagwa Love' trap. It was alleged that many Muslim girls from various parts of M.P. are being enticed by Hindutva men and trapped in 'Bhagwa Love' trap



At a Hindu Mahasabha event in New Delhi, farright leader and lawyer AP Singh delivered a Hate Speech against Manipur's Christian community



Similarly, a Hindu priest too cannot do the same legally... If boys and girls from different religions want to marry they should do it under the Special Marriage Act and without converting."

*Hindustan Times* on 30<sup>th</sup> July reported a sensational case from Ujjain's Gola Mandi area, where a female doctor, Zarreen was allegedly molested and thrashed by a group of men and one

woman. The incident, which reportedly happened in M.P. involved four men and a woman who assaulted a physiotherapist. Police superintendent Sachin Sharma assured the crowd that the guilty will be brought to book and an FIR was registered against the culprits.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported from national capital New Delhi on 30<sup>th</sup> July about a *Hindu Mahasabha* event at which far-right leader and lawyer AP Singh delivered a Hate Speech against Manipur's Christian community.

A Twitter handle on 31st July reported about an incident, which happened on 22nd July in Banaskantha, Gujarat, which showed an attack by cow vigilantes from Banaskantha. In the video, a Muslim man named Umaid Khan, was abducted, taken to the forest, and brutally thrashed and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' by the cow vigilantes. The incident shows the impunity with which the so-called cow vigilantes have taken law and order in their hands and they could target anyone on the suspicion of being a cow thief or trading in cow meat.

Twitter shared yet another video on 30<sup>th</sup> July from Hapur, U.P. where some Madrassa students returning from the market after buying fish, were accosted by a Hindutva activist, who claimed that they had purchased the fish to throw it at a temple and assaulted the young students brutally, this yet again shows that anyone can claim to be a saviour of the Hindu religion and attack people from the minority.





However, in this case the Police have arrested the accused youth, Lalit Kumar.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 31<sup>st</sup> July reported from Phulambari, Aurangabad, Maharashtra about a case of Hate Speech delivered at an event in Phulambari. In a video, it was seen that the event was organised by *Sakal Hindu Samaj* called *Aakrosh Morcha*, where right-wing leaders resorted to hateful speeches against Muslims. One of the speakers, Swami Vishuddhanand of Gayatri Ashram, Akola, pitched for an economic boycott of Muslims and peddled unverified conspiracy theories against Muslims.

Web portals *pratidin.com* and *hindutvawatch.org* on 31<sup>st</sup> July posted a video also shared on Twitter from Assam, in which Rashtriya Bajrang Dal trainers could be seen imparting firearms training to 350 Hindu men to fight "Love Jihad" in Assam. Continuing their probe in the arms training camp by Rashtriya Bajrang Dal members in Assam's Mangaldoi, Guwahati Police detained one member of the right-wing organisation involved in the incident from Noonmati. IAMC, shared a video from Mangaldoi, Assam on 30<sup>th</sup> July which showed Bajrang Dal workers taking out a rally in streets of Assam and raising slogans 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Jai Shri Ram', they can also be seen wearing dresses of the Indian Army, which under the law is prohibited to be worn by any civilian.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 31st July reported yet another Hate Speech delivered at an event at Sillod, Aurangbad,

Sakal Hindu Samaj organised an event - Aakrosh Morcha, where right-wing leaders resorted to hateful speeches against Muslims. One of the speakers. Swami Vishuddhanand of Gayatri Ashram, Akola, pitched for an economic boycott of **Muslims** 



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Maharashtra. In a video shared on Twitter, Hindu Rashtra Sena President Dhananjay Desai delivered a Hate Speech targeting Muslims and calling them outsiders.

On 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July various English, Hindi and Urdu newspapers reported cases of communal violence taking

place in the national capital New Delhi on the occasion of Muharram on 29<sup>th</sup> July. In addition to this, various provocative videos and speeches were shared on Twitter, one such Tweet shared on Twitter on 30<sup>th</sup> July showed a video in which activists linked to an Hindutva organisation took out an aggressive rally against Muharram procession where hate filled slogans like "Desh ke Gaddaro Ko, Goli Maro Saalon ko" were raised. The Delhi Police on Sunday said it has registered three cases after an unruly crowd taking part in Saturday's Muharram processions clashed with the police and pelted them with stones in west Delhi's Nangloi. Twelve people, including six police personnel, were injured while public property was damaged in the clashes.

The police on Saturday said, "Several 'tazia' processions were being carried out in the Nangloi area and around eight to 10 thousand people participated in those. One or two organisers on the main Rohtak Road became unruly and tried to deviate from the route that was mutually decided at the coordination meeting with the 'taziadaran'." The first FIR was registered under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act at Nangloi police station on the complaint of Nangloi SHO Prabhu Dayal. The incident in this case occurred at Surajmal Stadium, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Harendra Singh said.

The second FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Nanak Ram, the law and order inspector at Nangloi police station, for an incident at Nangloi





Chowk, Singh said. The third FIR was registered on the complaint of Mukesh Kumar, a head constable, for an incident near the metro station at Nangloi. All three cases were registered on Sunday, Harendra Singh added. In the first FIR, Dayal said several

'tazia' processions were scheduled in Nangloi on Saturday. There were meetings conducted with the organisers regarding the route and other issues. Apart from Nangloi police station of the Outer district, meetings were heldat Prem Nagar and Aman Vihar police stations in Rohini district, with the taazia organisers.

It was decided that the processions would proceed towards Surajmal Stadium via the metro station, take a u-turn from the Nangloi depot red light and return to their designated place, it said. From 12 pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, various processions were approaching from different areas following the predetermined route, the FIR stated.

Around 5 pm, some processions from the Prem Nagar and Aman Vihar areas of Rohini district crossed the Kirari Gate and reached the front of Surajmal Stadium via Rohtak Road. Upon reaching the site, instead of following the pre-decided route, some people tried to enter the stadium and started pushing and shoving, it added.

As there was no permission to enter the stadium, they were stopped. The Nangloi SHO, along with other officers and staff, tried to pacify them but they started fighting, it further said. The procession organisers stood on rickshaws and carts and started instigating the people to go inside the stadium. Some of

Hindu activists linked to rightwing Hindu organisations took out an aggressive rally against Muharram processions in Delhi. where hate filled slogans like "Desh ke Gaddaron Ko, Goli Maro Saalon ko" were raised



Slogans like Desh ke gaddaron ko goli maro...' (shoot the traitors) and 'Jai Shree Ram' were raised outside the Nangloi police station by the members of Bajrang Dal and VHP protesting against Tazia processions



these people had weapons such as swords, knives, sticks and iron rods, the FIR stated.

"On our refusal, the organisers and their supporters started pelting stones at the police. One of them, having a knife in his hand, attacked sub-inspector Parveen, on which Parveen grabbed the knife in order to save himself and received injury," it added. Singh said the police are checking CCTV footage from

the area and analysing videos of the incidents that were widely circulated on social media on Saturday. This theory clearly implicates Muslim organisers of resorting to violence and clearly overlooks the provocation by Hindutva outfits on the occasion.

The Bajrang Dal and the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) submitted a memorandum to the police over clashes during Muharram processions in west Delhi, officials said. Slogans of 'Desh ke gaddaro ko goli maro...' (shoot the traitors) and 'Jai Shree Ram' were raised outside the Nangloi police station by the members of the two organisations after they submitted the memorandum, a senior official said on Sunday.

The Indian Express and almost all English, Hindi and Urdu dailies on 1<sup>st</sup> August reported in detail about the communal violence that took place in Nuh, Haryana where three persons, including two home guards, were killed and several persons injured in clashes that broke out on Monday during a procession taken out by the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) in different towns of Nuh district. As communal violence flared in the district, internet services were suspended, prohibitory orders were imposed, and the state Home Minister sought additional forces from the Centre.

The Indian Express on 1st August reported about an incident, which happened on





the night of 31st July on the Jaipur-Mumbai Train at Palgarh station. As per reports a Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable, Chetan Singh on escort duty fired 12 rounds from his automatic service rifle, first killing his senior and then he identified three Muslim passengers Asghar Abbas, Abdul Kader Mohammed, and an unidentified person travelling on the train and killed them in cold blood. In a video, shot by fellow passengers, Singh, standing next to a body, is purportedly heard saying: "... Pakistan se operate hue ye, aur media yehi coverage dikha rahi hai, unko sab pata chal raha hai ye kya kar rahe hain... Agar vote dena hai, agar Hindustan mein rehna hai to mai kehta hoon Modi aur Yogi, ye do hain." A highlevel committee headed by ADG (RPF) has been constituted to conduct an inquiry into the incident and the accused constable has been arrested and the RPF claims that he suffered a mental breakdown.

The *Free Press Journal* on 31st July reported yet another incident which happened aboard an Indian Railways train. As per the details and a video which went viral on social media, shows a group of Hindu youths chanting 'Hanuman Chalisa' to disrupt the Namaaz being offered by a Muslim passenger on his berth.

TV channel NDTV on 31st July reported a controversial and anti-Muslim statement made by the CM of Uttar Pradesh while giving an interview to news service ANI. He said, "If

In Nuh, Haryana three persons, including two home guards, were killed and several persons injured in clashes that broke out during a procession taken out by the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu **Parishad** in spite of **Prohibitory Orders** 



An RPF constable, on escort duty fired 12 rounds from his automatic service rifle, first killing his senior and then he identified three Muslim passengers travelling on the train and killed them in cold blood



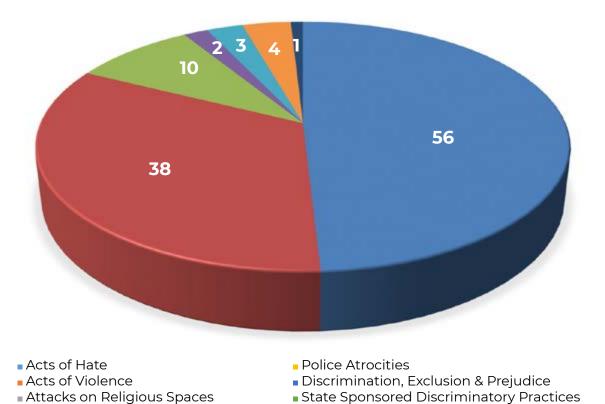
we call it a mosque, there will be a dispute. I feel whomever God, has blessed with sight, that person should see. What is a trishul (trident) doing inside a mosque? We did not put it there. There is a jyotirlinga, dev pratimas (idols)". Apparently, in his statement the U.P. CM was referring to the Gyanvapi masjid of Varanasi and claiming that if Hindus started calling it 'Gyanvapi Masjid', then the whole controversy around its

ownership would die down.

TV channel *NDTV* on 1<sup>st</sup> August reported a very disturbing incident from Gurugram, Haryana which happened during the intervening night of 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August, as per the report, a radical mob attacked a Masjid in Gurugram, and murdered the Imam of the Masjid, and injured several others just past midnight, according to the Police's version. The masjid, Anjuman Jama Masjid, located in Sector 57, Gurugram was also set on fire. The police identified the attackers, conducted raids at various places, and several of the accused have been arrested.

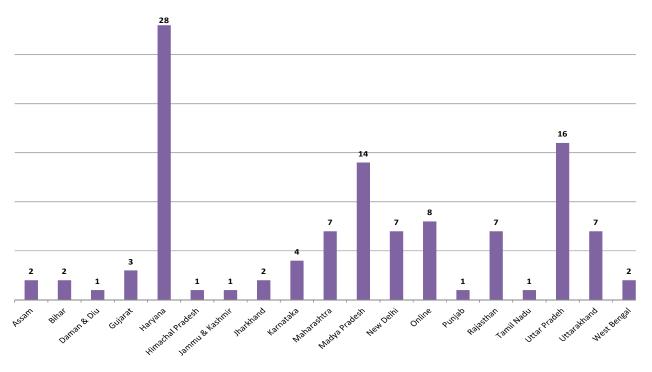


## 114 Hate Crime cases reported during August 2023



Media Manipulation and Fact Distortion

## State-wise Number of 114 Hate Crime Cases reported in August 2023







Hate Crime and Hate Speeches Cases reported in August 2023

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

The Hindustan Times on 3<sup>rd</sup> August reported a yet another Hate Speech from Faridabad, Haryana. Bittu Bajrangi, a self-styled cow vigilante, who was present at the VHP's rally in Nuh on 31<sup>st</sup> July, which apparently triggered widespread violence in Haryana, said some people at the rally indeed carried weapons but those were for worship. "We participated in the rally with women and children. Will we attack anyone? After our worship at the temple, we had food and a *kirtan* was held. As we set out to return, we saw the buses in front of us were put on fire. There was a mosque nearby and firing started from there.

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

Web portal *hindutvawach.org* on 1<sup>st</sup> August shared a video from Raghunathpura, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, in which *Hindu Jagran Manch* leader Kamal Gautam,





could be seen delivering a Hate Speech demonising Muslims. He also called for economic boycott of Muslims.

The official X handle of U.P. State Congress shared a video on 1st August of U.P. Minister Raghuraj Pratap Singh, went viral on social media where he could be

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

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

Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 1<sup>st</sup> August reported another video from Bahadurgarh, Haryana showing a saffron donning mob of Bajrang Dal members taking out a rally shouting hateful and provocative violent invoking slogans: *Desh ke gaddaron ko*,

A video shared on X from Badshahpur, Gurugram, Haryana, showed an extremist crowd targeting Muslim shops and vandalising Muslim properties while shouting 'Jai Shree Ram'



Hours before violence erupted in Nuh, Haryana, Surendra Jain, General Secretary of VHP was seen at Nuh's Nalhar Mahadev Mandir (final destination of the **Brajmandal** Yatra), where he delivered a Hate Speech against Muslims in Nuh-Mewat



goli maro salon ko (shoot the traitors of India)." A police van could be seen crossing the mob, without taking any action. A traffic police cop can also be seen walking alongside the mob, thus showing covert police support to such mobs in Haryana.

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

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

Web portal *inshortnews.com* posted a video on 1<sup>st</sup> August, which showed Bajrang Dal members holding a demonstration near Nirman Vihar metro station in Delhi after the Vishva Hindu Parishad called for a protest over the communal clashes that broke out in Haryana's Nuh.

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

Web portal  $\emph{firstpost.in}$  on  $2^{nd}$  August, reported a yet another incident from Mumbai





Maharashtra. Muslim girl students, enrolled at Acharya College in Chembur, found themselves at the centre of a controversy when they were allegedly denied entry into the institute due to wearing hijab or burqas. According to the students, they were instructed to remove their burqas before being allowed inside the college premises.

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

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

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

Muslim girl students, at a college in Chembur. Mumbai were allegedly denied entry into the institute due to wearing hijab or burgas. According to the students, they were instructed to remove their hijab/burgas before being allowed inside the college premises



VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi made controversial statements during communal riots in Nuh. In a video, she could be seen spreading lies that a Muslim killed Prophet **Mohammed** (Pbuh), his wife, his daughter and his sons. besides equating **Muslims** with terrorism



wooded area even as the Gurugram police continue to deny any incident in the area.

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

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

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

Web portal of Hindi daily *Amar Ujala*, *News18* UP and Facebook on 3<sup>rd</sup> August reported about and shared a video of VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi making a





controversial statement on recent communal riots in Nuh. In the video, she was also

seen spreading lies that a Muslim killed Prophet Mohammed (Pbuh), his wife, his daughter and his sons, besides equating Muslim with terrorism.

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

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

Web portal *indiatoday.in* reported on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, a yet another incident of moral policing from Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka. Allegedly, the rightwing members of the Sangh Parivar waylaid a vehicle at around 9 pm and assaulted the driver, Mohammed Ashique (22) a resident of Ujire, apparently for the reason that the passenger was a Hindu girl. The police registered a case and an investigation is on. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had

At **Dharmasthala** in Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, some rightwing persons waylaid a vehicle and assaulted the driver. **Mohammed** Ashigue (22) a resident of Ujire, apparently for the reason that his copassenger was a Hindu girl



In Uttarakhand's Dehradun. the VHP and Bajrang Dal organised a rally marked by Hate **Speeches** targeting Muslims and their faith. One of the leaders spoke virulently, claiming that the suppression and murder of Hindus has continued for long and now the Hindus have awakened



instructed the police to take strict action against those getting involved in moral policing incidents in the state.

Web portal *cjp.org.in* on 3<sup>rd</sup> August reported another incident of an anti-Muslim rally from Kurukshetra, Haryana. A local organisation *Samast Hindu Samaj* organised a march with a bulldozer and raised hateful slogans: *Desh ke gaddaron ko*, *Goli maro salon ko* (shoot the traitors of our country)."

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

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, NDTV reported a case of arson from Tauru, Nuh District in Haryana. As per the report a motorcycle-borne

assailant hurled Molotov cocktails at two mosques located in the town. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. While one of the mosques is located near Vijay Chowk, the other is situated near a police station in the town. Both mosques suffered some damage.

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





Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 4<sup>th</sup> August uploaded a video on its website, in which a group of Hindutva extremists could be seen hurling anti-Muslim slurs and beating a Muslim street vendor, Arif, who was selling pillows in a Hindu locality in Makronia, Sagar, M.P.

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

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

A video was shared on X on 4<sup>th</sup> August from Rajasthan's Sanganer-Muhana area near Jaipur, Rajasthan where some unruly crowd caught two Muslim youths, who were going home after offering *Juma Namaaz*, they were assaulted and

A video shared on X showed a journalist interviewing a 75-vearsold Muslim, a migrant labourer, the journo could be seen trying to demonise the Muslim community and putting the blame on Muslims for the recent communal violence in Nuh, Haryana



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



forced to chant *Jai Shree Ram*. As per the report, a case has been registered and the police detained 5 persons related to the incident.

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

Web portal *siasat.com* on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023, reported a yet another incident of hate crime from Chartor, Gujarat. A video clip surfaced on various social media platforms showing a group of right-wing activists beating a Muslim man named,

Umed Khan Baloch for transporting buffaloes in a pick-up van. The incident reportedly took place on  $22^{nd}$  July, however, the gruesome video came into the spotlight on  $5^{th}$  August only. So far no FIR has been registered about the case.

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

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





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

Web portal *thetelegraphonline.in* posted a video on its website on 6<sup>th</sup> August, where Muslim residents of Nuh, Haryana, could be seen accusing the state government of selective demolition by bulldozers in the town. One of the residents while

talking to *The Telegraph* said, "The authorities have started this bulldozer justice by demolishing homes and shops belonging to Muslims only. Why have they not demolished a single home of those responsible for the violence and who openly brandished weapons at the rally?" A JUH delegation visited the demolition site and arranged relief material for the affected families, whose houses were demolished. Sources said illegal constructions on 2.6 acres of land around Nalhar Medical College in Nuh town were also demolished, including many medical stores thus depriving the patients of the recent violence getting medical supplies for wound treatments quickly.

Hindi daily *Amar Ujala* and web portal *hindutvawatch*. *org* on 6<sup>th</sup> August reported an incident from Uttarakhand's Dehradun city. In a video reported by India TV, Bajrang Dal and *Hindu Jagran Manch* organised a protest against Mussorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) over Muslims offering prayers in one of the flats allotted under its housing schemes, claiming that it is being turned into a mosque.

Muslim residents of Nuh, Haryana, accused the state government of selective demolition by bulldozers in the town. Most of the residents while talking to The Telegraph blamed the administration for these illegal demolitions



Various social media platforms reported that posters in Nuh warned. "Muslims hawkers. businessmen. and beggars will not be allowed to enter 19 villages in Haryana for plying their trade or conduct business". claiming this decision has been taken in view of the atrocities against our Hindu brothers in Nuh



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

*Financial Express* on 6<sup>th</sup> August reported a yet another controversial speech telling Muslims of India that, "we" will treat all those who hail India as brothers but would not step back from taking the lives of those who speak against India. Speaking at an event of party workers at Bangrot in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district, the BJP MP Kailash Vijayvargiya,

said, "We are not opponents of anybody. All those who say *Bharat Mata ki Jai* are our brothers and we can lay down our lives for them. But, those who will speak against *Bharat Mata*, we will not step back from even taking their lives."

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





A video of a protest rally jointly organised by Bajrang Dal and the VHP circulated

on X on 6<sup>th</sup> August against an alleged case of love jihad from Chamba, Tehri district of Uttarakhand. In the video, BD/VHP activists can be seen forcefully getting the shops belonging to Muslims in the city closed giving them an ultimatum to leave the place immediately.

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

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

Web portal *outlookindia.com* on 7<sup>th</sup> August reported a case of vandalism of Muslim shops in Haryana's Panipat city. According to the report, around 25-30 men, with their faces covered and

An unfortunate incident was reported from Indore, M.P., where a group of right-wing individuals threw a petrol bomb at a masjid. The crime was recorded on CCTVs installed in the area, which showed some men and a woman indulging in the arson



A video from Shahjahanpur, U.P., showed **Bajrang** Dal leader and lawyer Arpit Gupta delivering a Hate Speech against the Muslims. He threatened a repeat of Babri Masjid if the judges don't rule in favour of Hindus in the Gyanvapi masjid dispute



holding swords and knives entered a local market in Panipat. A police official said, "armed men vandalised properties at three locations under the Chandni Bagh police station limits on Sunday and threatened the owners to vacate them. So far, the police have rounded up 15 people and their role is being ascertained. Police further said, "Many more will be rounded up based on CCTV footage and the videos shot by residents." The Haryana police have registered three FIRs at the Chandni

Bagh police station under Sections 148, 149, 324, 427, and 506 of the Indian Penal Code. *The Hindustan Times* on 7<sup>th</sup> August reported a protest being organised in Gurgaon against the Muslim community. Hundreds of people from villages in and around Gurugram gathered on 6<sup>th</sup> August in violation of the prohibitory orders in Gurugram's Sector 57, where a mosque was attacked and a deputy imam was murdered during the communal violence in August's beginning, the meeting called for an economic and social boycott of Muslims. These protesters also demanded that the accused that allegedly murdered the Imam be released from the police custody immediately and unconditionally. The district administration claimed that it did not gave any permission for the gathering and had imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in and around Tigra and Gurugram's Sector 57.

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

Web portal *siasat.com* on 7<sup>th</sup> August reported that some Hindu organisations





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

Web portal *clarionindia.net* reported on 7<sup>th</sup> August, about an Islamophobic incident from Chennai, Tamil Nadu where a police inspector attached to the Pulianthope Traffic Investigation Wing (TIW) in Tamil Nadu's capital city of Chennai was suspended on Monday for allegedly sending an audio message on a WhatsApp group, which hurt religious sentiments. As per the report, the police officer in a WhatsApp audio said, "India is the land of Hindus, and Christians and Muslims are minorities here. The majority will rule the land. If they (Muslims and Christians) are not okay with that, they can go to Pakistan or other Muslim countries."

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

Web portal indianobserverpost.in on 8th August reported

India is the land of Hindus, Christians and Muslims are minorities here. The majority will rule the land. If they (Muslims and Christians) are not okay with that, they can go to Pakistan or other Muslim countries: a police inspector posted in Chennai in a WhatsApp message



X and other social media platforms reported on 8th August about an anti-Muslim poster that asked the residents of Ghaziabad. U.P., to "not buy anything from Bhaijan (i.e. Muslims), rather buy from a Brother (i.e. a Hindu)"



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

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

The Indian Express on 8<sup>th</sup> August reported an incident of stone pelting at a Muslim man's house and a part of a Mazaar (shrine) situated near the house being set ablaze. According to the Express report, The man, Iftikhar Ahmed, filed a complaint stating that the family had retired for night, around 11.30 pm they heard glass being shattered. "My son, Gulzar Ahmed, and I found that a window near the stairs was broken and three men were standing near a bike (outside). Two (of them) were pelting stones at the house and the gate. Later, the men pelted stones at another man's house, across the street from my house. When people started assembling, they quickly left on their bike. On the same day, part of a mazaar in Sector 37, Gurugram was set on fire by unknown people in the early hours of the morning. The police registered two separate FIRs related to the incidents.

Web portal hindutvawatch.org on 8th August yet again a Hate Speech being





delivered at an event organised in New Delhi. In the video, BJP leader and *Hindu United Front* head Jai Bhagwan Goyal delivered the speech demonising Muslims and called on Hindus to buy weapons

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

On 8<sup>th</sup> August, a video was shared on X in which Okendra Rana, a leader of *Shree Mahakal Brigade* of Bhiwani, Haryana, openly pointed a gun at a truck driver on suspicion of carrying cows.

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

On 9<sup>th</sup> August, a video surfaced on social media platforms, which showed that during a *Kanwar Yatra* in M.P.'s Khandwa district, a radical Hindutva leader, threatened the Muslim

A Hate Speech was delivered by rightwing hate monger Kajal Shingla at Nani Daman. Daman & Diu. once again peddling conspiracy theories to incite hate and violence against Muslims and called Muslims "insects"



Hate Speeches were delivered by many right-wing Hindu priests in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. at an event organised in support of the UCC. In the video, one of the speakers can be heard saying if a fistful people (referring to Muslims) can make India shake, think what can 85% Hindus do to them, when awakened



community of physical attack. The group was seen standing near a Masjid and giving the provocative speech. They further said, if any Jihadis come across we would cut them in pieces.

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

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

On 9<sup>th</sup> August, we portal *indiatoday.in* reported a case of desecration of a religious place from U.P.'s Aligarh. A group of miscreants allegedly vandalised a historical *dargah* and dome of a masjid in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district late on 8<sup>th</sup> August night. The incident happened at the historical dargah and mosque of Baba Bajrudiin Shah, located in Chharra area of the city. Soon after the incident came to light, hundreds of Muslims gathered at the spot, demanding action against the miscreants responsible for the vandalism. According to a senior police officer, a case has been registered, and legal action is being taken against unknown miscreants.

Hindi daily *Amar Ujala* reported on 10<sup>th</sup> August, that a District Court in Indore, M.P. sentenced a Muslim Mohammad Sabir, aged 20 years to 20 years in jail on allegation of indulging in forced conversion and Love Jihad. The accused a resident





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

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

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

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

A physical assault case against a Dalit family from U.P.'s Sonbhadra district was reported. The family was assaulted and attacked by upper caste Hindus with sticks for stopping them from urinating in front of a Dalit house



A former **Bhopal Mayor** and Vice President of Madhya Pradesh's BJP state unit. Alok Sharma, in one of his speeches allegedly threatened the Muslim voters not to exercise their franchise if they'll not vote for the saffron party



The Free Press Journal and web portal siasat.com on 13<sup>th</sup> August reported that a former Bhopal Mayor and Vice President of Madhya Pradesh's BJP state unit, Alok Sharma, sparked a political controversy with his speech wherein he allegedly appealed to Muslim voters not to exercise their franchise if they do not vote for the saffron party, while addressing a convention of BJP workers at Jaora in Ratlam

district of the state. He said, "I want to appeal to our Muslim brothers of Jaora that if you don't want to vote for the BJP, then don't. But, I request you to not go for voting at all in that case". This is a clear case of psychological intimidation of the minority community voters to vote for the BJP or else...

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 13<sup>th</sup> August reported an incident of physical attack from Lalitpur, U.P., where a Dalit man Sujan Ahirwar was thrashed in the middle of the road after he refused to give free chicken to the accused in the case. A video of the assault has been doing the rounds on social media. Following this, the police registered a case against the accused under relevant sections of the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

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

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 14<sup>th</sup> August reported a yet another case of Hate Speech delivered at an event in New Delhi. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)





working president Alok Kumar while speaking at an event organised by Vanvasi

Raksha Parivar Foundation, delivered a communal speech demonising Muslims and claimed mosques in Mathura and Varanasi would be converted into temples within the next ten years.

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

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

At a mahapanchayat at Palwal, VHP and BD raised fiery slogans like "lessons to be taught" to Muslims. and demanded the Muslim majority Nuh district to be dissolved and merged with other districts, so as to erase the Muslim majority character of the Nuh district



On 15<sup>th</sup> August a Dalit Sarpanch (headman) of village Sironj, Vidisha, M.P. was allegedly not allowed to hoist the tricolour at a school. He alleged that the upper caste teachers of the school did not allowed him to be part of the Independence Day celebrations and also insulted him for being a **Dalit** 



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

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

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

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

*The Free Press Journal* on 16<sup>th</sup> August reported an incident as per which a group of Bajrang Dal and VHP workers disrupted a *Tiranga* (tricolour) rally taken out by Muslims on the occasion of the Independence Day in M.P.'s Guna while chanting





slogans of *Jai Shree Ram*. As a result of this a clash took place between clash between the two groups. In response to the altercation, members of the Muslim community filed a complaint at the local police station. They presented a video as evidence of the incident, seeking action against the disruptors. The police have initiated a review of the matter based on the video footage provided as evidence.

Saaf Afreen's X handle shared a video from Hissar, Haryana on 16<sup>th</sup> August in which a radical man could be seen setting fire to the poster of Father of the Indian Constitution Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar,

so far there is no report of the accused being identified or any action taken against him.

X handle *The Muslim* shared a video on 16<sup>th</sup> August, Rajasthan's Jaipur city, which showed a group of radical Hindutva activists raising provocative anti-minority slogans, during a *Tiranga Yatra*. They said, if you want to live in India then you have to say *Jai Shree Ram*.

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

X shared a video from Hissar, Haryana on 16th August in which a radical man could be seen setting fire to the poster of Father of the Indian Constitution Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar



HJV leader **Jagadish** Karanth delivered an extremely hateful speech against Muslims and gave an open call for violence against them at an event in Sirsi, Karnataka, saying, "They (Muslims) are again demanding partition; these people should either be shot or choppedup"



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

Web portal *thehindustangazette.com* on 17<sup>th</sup> August reported a Tiranga (tricolour) rally taken out in Jammu, at which Bajrang Dal members raised provocative slogans against Muslims. Slogans like, *Jab Mulle kate Jayenge*, *Ram Ram Chilayenge* (When Muslims would be chopped-up, they would cry Ram Ram), were raised during the procession.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 17<sup>th</sup> August reported a Hate Speech delivered at an event in Sirsi, Karnataka. One

of the speakers, *Hindu Jagaran Vedike* (HJV) leader Jagadish Karanth delivered an extremely hateful speech against Muslims and gave an open call for violence against them. He said, "They [Muslims] are again demanding partition; these people should either be shot or chopped-up".

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

Hindi daily *Dainik Bhaskar* on 17<sup>th</sup> August reported a case of economic boycott from Western U.P., where right-wing organisations began a new campaign titled





"Mehendi Jihad" (Henna Jihad) on social media demanding that Hindu women should not get *henna* designed on their hands by Muslim vendors. As per the Bhaskar's report, "Hindu sisters should avoid getting henna applied by Muslim youths on the festival of *Sawan* and *Teej* (Two Hindu festivals during which,

women adorn themselves with new clothes, *henna* and jewellery before offering ritual Puja). Hindu girls should get henna applied by Hindu women only. Give employment to Hindus and also take care of your safety. Instead of *Jihadis*, get *henna* applied by *Sanatanis*."

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

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 17<sup>th</sup> August reported about a heinous crime against a minor Dalit girl from U.P.'s Jaunpur. As per reports, the U.P. Police arrested six men accused of molesting a Dalit minor girl in Jaunpur on 14<sup>th</sup> August and recording a video of the crime. The arrests came after a video showing the girl being harassed by a group of men in the

U.P. Police arrested six men accused of molesting a minor Dalit girl in Jaunpur on 14th August and recording a video of the crime and sharing it on social media, taking cognisance of which the Police arrested them



On 17th August a Tiranga (tricolour) rally was taken out in Jammu, at which Bajrang Dal members raised provocative slogans against Muslims. like. 'Jab Mulle kate Jayenge, Ram Ram Chilayenge '(When Muslims would be choppedup, they would cry Ram Ram)



Machhlishahr area went viral on social media. The victim's mother filed an official complaint, a case under Sections 147, 354 (molestation), 504 (criminal intimidation), 506 of the Indian Penal Code, section 3(2)(VA) of the SC/ST Act, and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act was registered against the accused.

On 17<sup>th</sup> August, web portal *altnews.com* reported a case of media manipulation and misinformation with an aim to create communal tensions by the 'Sudarshan News'. A video of a store called Shama Biryani Dhaba went viral on social media with the claim that the eatery uses unhygienic water

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

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

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

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

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

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

*The Hindustan Times* on 19<sup>th</sup> August reported an incident of mob lynching from Rajasthan's Alwar city. A 27-years-old Muslim youth, identified as Wasim, was killed and his two associates were injured when a mob attacked them on the suspicion that they were illegally chopping wood in a forest

A 27-years-old Muslim youth, Wasim, was killed and his two associates injured when a mob attacked them on the suspicion that they were illegally chopping wood in a forest in Rampur area of Bansur tehsil of Rajasthan's Alwar district



In what appears to be a case of deliberate discrimination based on religion, the management of the Shri KT Patel Smriti Vidyalaya refused to honour its star Muslim student - a board topper, at the school's Independence Day function



in Rampur area of Bansur tehsil of Rajasthan's Alwar district. Those who allegedly attacked the three included forest wardens also. The Police have arrested some people in connection with the incident.

Web portal *thewire.in* on 19<sup>th</sup> August reported about a case of religious discrimination from Lunwa village, Mehsana District, M.P. A Muslim girl student Arnaz Banu of 10<sup>th</sup> standard, who was also the first topper of the school in the state board exams

for class 10<sup>th</sup>, arrived to participate at a function organised by her school to honour best performing students of Class 10 and Class 12 of the school on the Independence Day, she expected to be called first on stage to collect her prize. However, that was not to be. In what appears to be a case of deliberate discrimination based on religion, the management of the Shri KT Patel Smriti Vidyalaya refused to honour its star student. However, Bipin Patel, the principal of the school trying to hide the discrimination and defending the management said, "Our school maintains a strict policy against any form of discrimination. Rest assured, the deserving student will receive her reward on 26<sup>th</sup> January function.

Hindi daily *Amar Ujala* reported on 19<sup>th</sup> August, that a District Court in Indore, M.P. sentenced Mohammad Sabir, aged 20 years to 20 years in jail on allegation of indulging in forced conversion and Love Jihad. The accused a resident of Indore has been sentenced under Section 3/5 of the M.P. Religious Freedom Act 2021. According to a report, when he found a minor girl alone at home, he raped and harassed her.

*Deccan Herald* on 21<sup>st</sup> August reported an incident of Hate Speeches delivered at an event organised at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. A meeting organised by some





fringe Hindu outfits over the recent violence in Haryana's Nuh was stopped by police midway after some speakers allegedly delivered 'inflammatory speeches'. Addressing the 'mahapanchayat' organised by the All India Sanatan Foundation and other outfits, Yati Narsinghanand said, 'If the population of Hindus decreases and that of Muslims grows like this, then the history of thousand years will repeat itself."

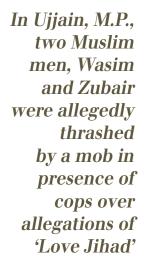
Web portal siasat.com on 21st August reported an incident of custodial death

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

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

RSS, VHP, and Bajrang Dal members attacked Christian devotees during the Sunday prayers at GTB Nagar, New Delhi, chanting slogans of Jai Shree Ram







Web portal *sabrangindia.in* on 21<sup>st</sup> August reported a case of Hate Speech from Karnataka's Bagalkot. In a video, a right-wing leader can be seen making incendiary speech during a *Hindu Jagaran Vedike* event; other speakers are also reported to have delivered Hate Speeches alluding to violence against the minorities. A speaker at the event of the RSS affiliated

organisation called for what he claimed a return of the instances that happened in Gujarat in 2002.

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

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

Web portal *Sabrang India* on 22<sup>nd</sup> August reported another incident of mob attack from Ghatkopar, Mumbai, Maharashtra. In a shocking incident a Muslim pizza delivery boy was savagely assaulted by a group of far-right activists, raising concerns about the escalating tide of intolerance and bigotry. Allegedly, a group of men asked Shahid to stop on the roadside ostensibly to ask for a light. As soon as Shahid stopped, the group of men attacked him calling *'Aurangzeb ki aulaad'* after which they hit him from the back and ruthlessly assaulted him. According to his





version the group tried to force him recite the names of "some Hindu deities", however he didn't complied and they proceeded to beat him brutally with sticks and hands. The police have so far arrested 4 men in connection with the incident.

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

Web portal *indiatoday.in* on 23<sup>rd</sup> August reported a yet another case of mob lynching from Jharkhand's Ramgarh city. A 45-year-old Muslim man Shamshad Ansari was beaten to death by a group of locals in Jharkhand's Ramgarh. The assault took place on Monday, following an alleged fraud of Rs 22,000 committed by the man.

X and web portal *siasat.com* on 24<sup>th</sup> August reported that Suresh Chavhanke, the editor of Sudarshan News, also well known for his anti-Muslim mindset and delivering Hate Speeches against the community, posted a cartoon on X showing Muslims throwing stones at Chandrayaan 3, India's third lunar exploration project by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The cartoon also included a display

Sudarshan News posted a cartoon on X, which showed **Muslims** throwing stones at Chandrayaan 3. The cartoon also included a display board in Hindi saying, "Chand ki Zameen waqf ki milkiyat hai" meaning "The land on the Moon belongs to the Wagf" thus mocking both the Wagf Board and the **Muslims** 



A 15-years-old Dalit student committed suicide in Rajasthan's Kotputli town of Jaipur after two of his school teachers allegedly harassed him on the basis of his caste, the police said. The victim's family alleged that the school was informed about the casteist remarks earlier but it refused to act



board in Hindi saying, "Chand ki Zameen waqf ki milkiyat hai," meaning "The land on the Moon belongs to Waqf," thus mocking the Waqf board and Muslims, both.

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

*The Hindustan Times* on 26<sup>th</sup> August reported another incident of hate crime against Dalits from Rajasthan's Jaipur. A 15-years-old Dalit student committed suicide in Rajasthan's Kotputli town of Jaipur after two of his school teachers allegedly harassed him on the basis of caste, the police

said. The victim's family alleged that the school was informed about the casteist remarks but refused to act. The two teachers – Vivek Yadav and Rajkumar Yadav – were booked under sections 302 (murder) and 34 (criminal act done by several persons) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and section 3-2(v) of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

On 26th August, *Hindustan Times* reported yet another incident from Sagar District of M.P., where a 20-years-old Dalit boy, Nitin Ahirwar, was beaten to death on by the key accused identified as Vikram Singh, 28, and eight others after Ahirwar refused to withdraw a sexual harassment case lodged by his sister, against them. Following the incident, a police complaint was filed by the family members of the deceased against nine people.

On 26th August, Hindi daily *Dainik Bhaskar* reported a case of Islamophobia





and anti-Muslim protests from Dhar, M.P., where a group of Hindutva activists associated with right-wing organisations collectively organised a protest demanding an Imambara to be removed from PWD's land. After a protest, they gathered at an event, and later a large number of this Hindu organisation's members gathered at the Collectorate and submitted a memorandum to the District Collector asking him to get the Imambara relocated. They were also seen giving hate speeches from the stage and talked about love jihad and land jihad.

*Times of India* on 28<sup>th</sup> August reported a yet another anti-Muslim poster from Haryana's Gurgaon. Posters were pasted on the walls of a few shops at a slum in Gurugram, asking Muslim to leave the place by Monday or face the consequences. As per reports, the poster surfaced in Sector 69, a day before VHP's call for a Shobha Yatra. The VHP, meanwhile, denied any connection with the posters. A complaint has been registered in connection with this case.

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

Web portal *hindustangazette.com* on 28<sup>th</sup> August, reported a case of a mazaar being demolished in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand by members of *Devebhoomi Abhiyan*, while raising objection

In Dhar, M.P., a group of Hindutva activists demanded an Imambara to be shifted, they gathered at the **Collectorate** and submitted a memorandum to the District **Collector** asking him to get the **Imambara** relocated, and raised slogans associated with Love Jihad and Land Jihad





A government school teacher, Hema Gulati at a school in New Delhi allegedly made communal slurs targeting a group of Muslim students of her class, while the students were celebrating the success of India's Chandrayaan -3 mission

able slogans against the Muslim community.

Scroll.in on 29th August reported a yet another case of Islamophobia and hatred against the Muslim community from Gandhinagar, New Delhi. A government school teacher allegedly made communal slurs targeting a group of Muslim students of her class. Hema Gulati of the Kailash Nagar Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Gandhinagar area made the offensive statements on 23rd August, while students of Class 9 were celebrating the success of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission. An FIR was registered against her after parents of the children filed a complaint with the police and the Directorate of Education. Gulati has been booked under Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 295A (outraging religious feelings) and 298 (uttering words with intent to wound the religious feelings) of the IPC.

On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023, web portal *indiatoday.in* reported yet another caste based discrimination and physical assault against Dalits from Maharashtra's Ahmednagar District. Four Dalit men were hanged upside down from a tree and beaten with sticks over suspicions of stealing a goat and some pigeons at Haregaon village in Ahmednagar district. A video of the





incident went viral on social media, following which the police arrested one person in connection with the attack, while five others are absconding.

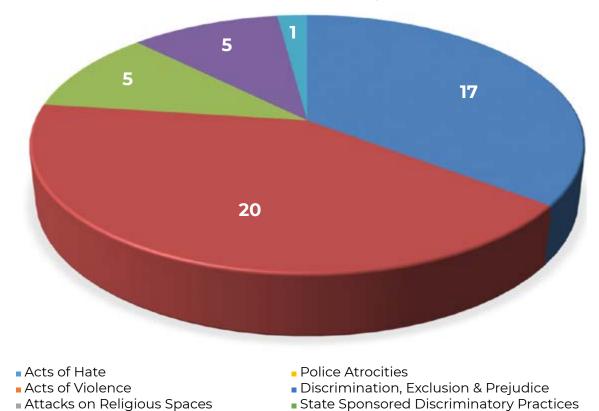
Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 30<sup>th</sup> August, reported a yet another incident of anti-Muslim sentiments from Jind, Haryana. A video went viral on social media of a right-wing leader who can be heard justifying Junaid and Nasir's murder by the cow vigilantes group and also is seen threatening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

The Indian Express on 31st August reported an incident of physical attack against a Muslim cattle trader Akib Pathan Khan from Bharuch, Gujarat. Tension gripped Bharuch town after Muktanand Swami alias Bhavesh Patel (44), a convict in the Ajmer Dargah blast case – who is out on bail since 2018 – clashed with two youth. According to the victims, Muktanand Swami asked him not to use that road again. "I replied that this is my routine route to reach the river bank". Patel continued arguing and asked me 'not to use the road and slapped me thrice and later attacked me with a spade lying nearby'. Later, a police constable came and took me to the police station and then to a hospital where I received four stitches on my head."

Four Dalit men were hanged upside down from a tree and beaten with sticks over suspicions of stealing a goat and some pigeons at Haregaon village in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra

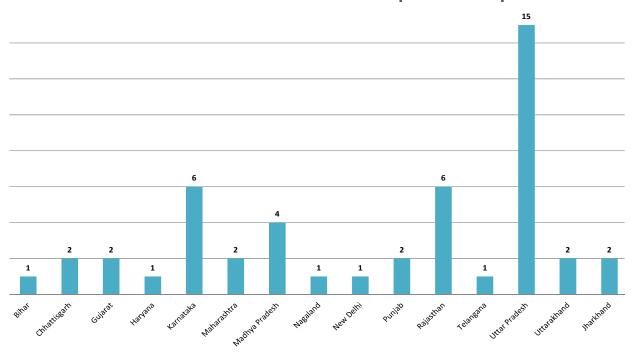


#### 48 Hate Crime cases reported during September 2023

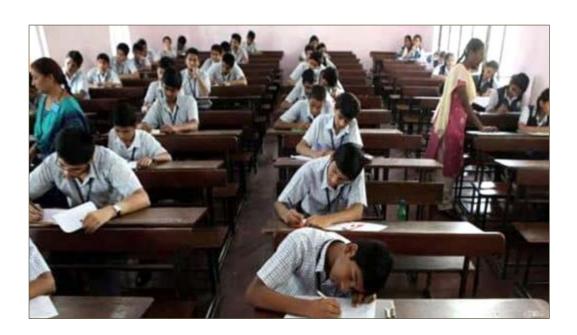


■ Media Manipulation and Fact Distortion

#### State-wise Number of 48 Hate Crime Cases reported in September 2023







Hate Speech and Hate Crime Cases reported in September 2023

On 1<sup>st</sup> September web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported an incident of religious discrimination and intimidation against Christian community from U.P.'s Puranpur area of Pilibhit district. In a shared on X, members of the right-wing organisations can be spotted alleging a Pastor of indulging in religious conversion and asked the police to take strong action against him. One of the outfit's members while speaking to police personal said that religious conversion of Hindus has been taking place for a long time in the district and they have informed the police multiple times but not action has been taken.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, *The Hindustan Times* reported another case of religious bigotry, when a government school teacher allegedly asked two Class V<sup>th</sup> Muslim students to "go to Pakistan". The education department in Shivamoga district of Karnataka, transferred the government school teacher and initiated an inquiry against her. A case was registered against the teacher on 26<sup>th</sup> August under Sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code on the complaint of the victim's family.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *edexlive.com* reported a case of discrimination based on religious identity from Karnataka's Hassan District. As per the report, a government residential school in Hassan, Karnataka, was in dock over an alleged religious slur terming minority community students as "beef eaters" and illegally



NDTV reported an incident involving unidentified men trying to install an idol of Goddess Saraswati at the disputed 12th Century Bhojshala Kamal Maula Masjid in communally sensitive Dhar town of Madhva **Pradesh** 



detaining five minor boys from Class X in a room inside the school campus. Mahantesh, the accused assaulted the minors with electric cables. He also made anti-Muslim remarks saying, 'You are beef-consuming people'. Police filed a first information report (FIR) the day after the parents of one of the minor boys, who was allegedly assaulted, filed a complaint.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *newsylive.com* reported a shocking video of Madhya Pradesh Police parading 8 Muslim

men in a half-naked state in Indore, which went viral on social media. These Muslim men were punished by the M.P. police for pelting stones at each other. Also, a case has been filed under relevant Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for their action and a probe is currently underway. According to reports, the men were involved in throwing stones at each other after a verbal spat.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September, *ANI* reported an incident of physical attack against a Muslim man from Rajasthan's Didwana-Kuchaman. According to reports, the victim, Sabir on a visit to Kuroli, was caught by some villagers allegedly on the charge of stealing scrap and took him hostage. Following this, he was taken to a room and beaten with sticks. The accused also extorted 21000 Rupees from the victim. Four men were later arrested by the police.

On 11<sup>th</sup> September, news channel *NDTV* reported an incident involving unidentified men trying to install an idol of Goddess Saraswati in the disputed 12<sup>th</sup> Century Bhojshala Kamal Maula Masjid in communally sensitive Dhar town in Madhya Pradesh. Right-wing leaders Ashok Jain and Gopal Sharma claimed the idol of Goddess Saraswati had emerged on its own in the Bhojshala premises, but it was removed from there by the local administration and police. A case has been





registered against unidentified accused on the complaint of the ASI officials, under IPC Sections 452, 295 and 153-A.

On 11<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported that Monu Manesar's cow vigilante's gang members assaulted a truck driver for transporting cattle in Pachgaon, Gurugram, Haryana. A video related to the incident was also widely circulated on the social media.

Web portal *thequint.in* reported an incident of hate crime against a Dalit man from U.P.'s Sultanpur district. As per the Quint's report, an 18-years-old Dalit youth was beaten to death in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur, allegedly for demanding the wage promised to him for four days of labour at a farm in Baramadpur village of the district. An FIR was registered in connection with the case at the Akhand Nagar police station, on 26<sup>th</sup> August, under section 302 IPC and relevant sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

On 11<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *journomirror.com* reported a case of a physical attack against a Muslim boy in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh. As per reports, some people kidnapped a Muslim youth from Newada village in Baghpat, took him to a cowshed, and assaulted him brutally. Upon receiving news of the incident, the police rushed to the scene and admitted the injured youth to the hospital. An FIR has been registered in connection with this incident.

The Indian Express on 12th September reported about a

An 18-yearsold Dalit youth was beaten to death in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district allegedly for demanding the wage promised to him for four days of labour at a farm in Baramadpur village of the district



A Hate Speech video from U.P.'s Kanpur, showed a rightwing leader threatening to demolish the masjids in Varanasi and Mathura. to reclaim temples, which were allegedly demolished there to construct these masjids



communal clash from Satara District, Maharashtra. As per the IE report, a Muslim man identified as Nurul Hasan Liaqat Shikalgar, 32, was killed in a communal clashes following some "objectionable" posts on social media. At least 19 others, including 10 police personnel, were reported to have been injured in the clashes. Some villagers alleged that Shikalgar had gone to the local place of worship for late evening prayers, when a mob entered the premises and assaulted the people

there. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the IPC including that for murder, and 23 suspects have been apprehended, so far.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported a case of hate speech from Bikaner, Rajasthan. In a video shared on X, BJP leader and Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat indulged in anti-Muslim rhetoric and distorting history to target Muslims.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 12<sup>th</sup> September reported a yet another case of Hate Speech from U.P.'s Kanpur. In a video shared on social media a right-wing leader could be heard threatening to demolish the mosques in Varanasi and Mathura, to reclaim temples, which were allegedly demolished there to construct masjids.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September, Ashraf Hussain on his X handle shared a video that had been circulating on social media in which members of right-wing organisations can be seen demolishing a Mazaar in Uttarakhand's Rishikesh city.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *clarionIndia.net* reported a shocking incident of mob lynching from Alwar, Rajasthan. A 22-year-old Muslim man Mohammed Wakeel succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital in Jaipur a week





after he was brutally assaulted following a scuffle between two groups from different communities that led to communal tension. According to eyewitnesses and villagers, Wakeel was abducted by Purshottam Saini, a BJP leader, and his group of henchmen at Tijara Chowk, he was nabbed by a group of hooligans led by Purshottam Saini and then taken to a jungle and assaulted brutally leaving him half dead.

Web portal *zeenewsindia.in* on 14<sup>th</sup> September reported an incident from Ranchi, Jharkhand where a 26-years-old Muslim man Rehmatullah Ansari, who was lodged in Birsa Munda Central Jail Ranchi on charges of theft, was found unconscious with his neck slit using sharp weapon. As per the report, he was later declared dead upon reaching Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi. Family members of the deceased accused Jail authorities of murder while authorities denied the charges against them, terming it as a clear case of suicide.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *millattimes.com* reported an incident from Desh Bhagat University, a private university in Gobindgarh, Punjab. The report quoted a video which went viral on social media, showing Kashmiri Muslim students of DBU reportedly being beaten-up by university staff, police and local goons allegedly hired by the staff after these students, raised concerns over the university's admission practices. In a statement, JKNC State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said the physical assault on Kashmiri students is a grim reminder of

In a shocking incident of mob lynching from Alwar-Rajasthan, a 22-years-old Muslim man **Mohammed** Wakeel was brutally assaulted following a scuffle between two groups from different communities leading to communal tension in the city



Another Hate Speech case was reported from Ashok Nagar, M.P., where Hindutva leaders, while addressing **Bajrang** Dal cadres highlighted fictional issue of "Love Jihad" and goaded the cadres to adopt an anti-Muslim stance



how they continue to face the brunt of targeted assaults even by uniformed men. So far, no FIR has been registered by the police, and no arrests have been made in connection with the assault.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported a yet another Hate Speech case from Ashok Nagar, M.P., where Hindutva leaders, while addressing Bajrang Dal cadres

highlighted fictional issue of "love jihad" and goaded the cadres to adopt an anti-Muslim stance.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, a video went viral and gained widespread attention across various social media platforms including X. The video showed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad-Bajrang Dal organising a *Shaurya Jagran Rally* at Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, during which senior leaders of the BD engaged in rhetoric speeches perceived as fear-mongering. Their statements centred on the mythical idea of a growing Muslim population and the concept of "love jihad."

The Indian Express on 17<sup>th</sup> September reported an incident of communal clash from Gujarat's Kheda Distrcit. The incident took place on Friday in which three policemen and six others were injured in a communal clash at Thasra village in Kheda district during a procession taken out by devotees of Lord Shiva to mark the end of the holy Shravan month. Three FIRs were lodged, one of them by the Kheda district police, resulting in the arrest of 11 people, including one Independent councillor from Thasra Municipality. One of the complainants said, "as the yatra arrived at the Teen Batti junction, a member of the Thasra Municipality, Mohammad Abrar Riyazuddin Saiyyed, along with around 10 members of the Muslim community, made allegations that the members of the procession were using abusive language... they





were adamant that the DJ music should be stopped."

On 18<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported yet another incident of physical assault against a Muslim man from Tappal, Aligarh, U.P. In a video that was uploaded on X, members of Cow Vigilante group could be seen brutally assaulting a Muslim man over suspicion of cattle slaughter.

*Times of India* on 19<sup>th</sup> September reported a yet another incident of physical assault against a Muslim man from U.P.'s Bareilly. As per *ToI*, a Muslim man along with a neighbour and a female friend went out in search of his missing sister

to a temple, where he was thrashed by radically motivated local residents on allegation of Love Jihad. A video of the incident was widely circulated on social media. Police, after monitoring the video, detained and released four persons under CrPC 151.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 19<sup>th</sup> September reported a yet another case of Hate Speech delivered by right-wing leaders at an event in Surat, Guajrat. As per the video, hate monger Kajal Shingla was seen delivering hate speech at 'Arambh 2024' event jointly organised and sponsored by the Maruti group and the Surat Literary Foundation targeting Muslims.

Web portal *thehindustangazette.com* on 20<sup>th</sup> September reported a case of abduction of a Muslim minor girl named Gulfasa from Bihar's Saharsa District. The incident occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, leaving her family distraught and sparking outrage among the local residents. Mazhar Khan, the father of Gulfasa, made serious allegations against several individuals,

Another Hate Speech was delivered by right-wing hate monger Kajal Shingla at an event in Surat-Guajrat, the event was organised by the Surat Literary Foundation



Al Jazeera reported an incident of provocation and Hate Speech demonising the entire Muslim community. During a debate on the success of India's historic moon mission, BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri called Kunwar Danish Ali of the BSP "a terrorist, a pimp, a mulla, a circumcised male, etc"





including Ratnesh Yadav, Sarvan Yadav, Raveen Yadav, Pappu Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav, Sonu Kumar, and Amar Yadav, accusing them of being involved in the abduction. The Bihar Police have yet to locate the missing girl, prompting anger and frustration within the community.

On 21st September, web portal *theobserverpost.com* reported an incident of physical attack from Chumukedima, Dimapur, Nagaland. A young Muslim man named Ikamul Hussain was attacked by a mob on the suspicion of theft, later he was declared dead when brought to the hospital in Dimapur. In response to this incident, the Chumukedima Police Station took six individuals into custody in connection with Ikamul Hussain's death. A case has been registered against these individuals under the relevant sections of the law.

On  $22^{\rm nd}$  September, a video was shared on X, which showed a Muslim girl Jannat Bano accusing the SHO of Jalalpur Police station, Jaunpur, U.P. of beating and misbehaving with her. This incident took place when the girl went to the police station to file a complaint over a land dispute, the SHO dragged her to a room, tore her cloths and assaulted her. So far, no action has been taken against the police officer.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, TV channel *Al Jazeera* reported an incident of provocation and Hate Speech demonising the entire Muslim community by targeting opposition Muslim MP Danish Ali of the BSP in the lower house of the Indian Parliament. During a debate on the success of India's historic moon mission, BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri called Kunwar Danish Ali of the opposition Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) a "terrorist, pimp, a mulla, a circumcised male etc". there was a huge uproar by the





political parties on the issue, later the Speaker-LS referred the matter to a Priveleges Committee of the parliament.

The Indian Express on 22<sup>nd</sup> September reported another incident of beating of a 10-years-old Muslim boy at Bal Vikas Model School, Ludhiana, Punjab. In the heart-rending video, some students are purportedly seen holding the boys' feet and hands and holding him up in the air while the principal, identified as Shree Bhagwan, was seen thrashing the boy with a stick. The child can be heard crying for help but the accused continues to thrash him. An FIR was registered at Moti Nagar police station under various sections of the Indian Penal Code under several charges, including wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation, voluntarily causing hurt etc. and under sections 75 and 82 of the Juvenile Justice Act, in

addition the Police arrested the school's principal.

The Hindustan Times on 23<sup>rd</sup> September reported an incident from Bidar, Karnataka where some unidentified people put up a saffron flag on top of a Masjid and tried to disturb peace and harmony. According to police officers, the incident occurred in Dhannur and came to light at 7 am on Friday when a resident, Ismail, went to the mosque to offer Namaz. He alerted other neighbours and filed a complaint at the Basavakalyana rural police station. Police have registered a case under section 295 (defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion) of the Indian Penal Code and a search is on for the unidentified individuals.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September web portal *journomirror.com* reported a case of mob lynching from Pakur, Jharkhand. The victim, Asikul

In Bidar,
Karnataka
some
unidentified
men put up a
saffron flag on
top of a masjid
and tried to
disturb the
town's peace
and harmony



Vishwa Hindu
Parishad
leader Anirudh
Pandit said
that Muslims
and Christians
should be
allowed to stay
in India only if
they convert to
Hinduism



Shaikh was brutally beaten to death by some people in Pakur.

Web portal *theobserverpost.com* on 26<sup>th</sup> September reported a case of physical assault on Muslim women from M.P.'s

Indore city. A group of individuals associated with a Hindu right-wing group were seen assaulting Muslim women who had decorated the colony in celebration of Eid-e-Milad un Nabi. The altercation started when the right wing group members objected to the festive decorations, resulting in a clash.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported members of *Shree Ram Sena* stopping four trucks over allegations of transporting beef and set the accompanying car on fire at Doddaballapur in Karnataka. They also thrashed the Muslim drivers and forced them to chant Jai Shree Ram slogans. Police have made multiple arrests in the case.

On 26th September, web portal *hindutvawatch.org* reported a yet another case of Hate Speech delivered by the right-wing leaders at an event organised in Barshi, Solapur, Mahrashtra. Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Anirudh Pandit said that Muslims and Christians should be allowed to stay in India only if they convert to Hinduism.

Web portal *siasat.com* on 26<sup>th</sup> September reported an attack on a Masjid in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. Two radical persons, a resident of Bilinele Sodlu and Sachin, a resident of Kaikamba Nedtota, allegedly barged into the mosque and raised slogans of 'Jai Shree Ram'. The incident created tension the city and the police had formed two teams to nab the accused in this connection.. In the police complaint, the clerics stated that the youngsters after barging into the mosque chanted 'Jai Shree Ram' slogans and also threatened that they would not let 'Byaris' (Muslims) live in the town.

NDTV on 26th September reported an incident from U.P.'s Khushinagar, where





a 16-years-old Muslim girl was allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped in a moving vehicle earlier this month, the police said. Three men, all neighbours of the victim,

were arrested. According to the police, the incident took place on 9<sup>th</sup> September when the accused called the minor girl to clean a cow shelter. The victim wrote in her police complaint that the accused threatened her with a knife and took her to a shanty before forcing himself upon her.

Web portal *theobserverpost.com* on 27th September reported a case of mob lynching of a Muslim man from Sundar Nagri, New Delhi. A 26-years-old Muslim youth named Israar Ahmed was beaten to death by a Hindu mob in Sunder Nagri under the Nand Nagari police station in north-east Delhi. According to his family, he was tied to a pole and beaten with sticks and belts. Isaar had come to participate in a religious programme of the Hindus on Navami occasion. There, he picked up the Prasad and ate it. They said that some boys caught Israar, tied him with a rope to a pole, beat him with sticks, and then ran away, leaving him half dead on the road. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Joy Tirkey, confirmed that a murder case has been registered, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the individuals responsible for the assault.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, web portal *siasat.com* reported that ahead of Ganesh Visarjan festival in Hyderabad, the mosques on the routes of the procession in the city have been covered with white plastic to avert untoward incident. The mosques at

A 26-yearsold Muslim youth named Israar Ahmed was beaten to death by a Hindu mob in Sunder Nagri under the Nand Nagari police station of New Delhi, after he reportedly picked up a banana from the prasad offerings at a mandir



A Muslim boy Sahil was allegedly attacked by a group of people for wearing a skull cap at a college in Meerut, U.P.



Afzal Gunj, Charminar, and other areas in the city have also been covered in black and white cloths. This shows how the administration stigmatises one religion and provide special treatment to the other. It was said that, this practice has been adopted by law enforcement authorities to maintain a peaceful atmosphere in the city during the Ganesh procession.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 27<sup>th</sup> September reported another incident of anti-Muslim Hate Speech delivered by right-wing leaders at an event organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal in Haldwani, Uttarakhand.

Meer Faisal shared a video on X on 27<sup>th</sup> September, in which a Muslim man Mahmud Alam can be seen sharing his suffering after being brutally attacked by a radical mob in Ranchi, Jharkhand. He was also robbed and forced to chant *Jai Shree Ram*.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 27<sup>th</sup> September reported another case of Hate Speech from Chhattisgarh's Bhilai city. According to reports Rashtriya Bajrang Dal leader Manoj Kumar used anti-Muslim slurs and peddled fear of Muslims amongst the Hindu audience.

The Times of India on 28<sup>th</sup> September reported another incident of physical assault against a Muslim man from U.P.'s Meerut city. As per the report, a Muslim boy Sahil was allegedly attacked by a group of people for wearing a skull cap in a Meerut college. The incident, captured on video, shows the man being grabbed and threatened with a brick. The man's brother filed a police complaint stating that the attackers demanded that he should remove the cap and assaulted him.

A video was shared by the web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 28<sup>th</sup> September in which Mahila Gau Raksha Dal President, Sadhvi Kamal could be seen encouraging cow vigilantes to use brutal violence against people transporting cattle at an event organised in Jaipur, Rajasthan.





Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 29<sup>th</sup> September reported a case of Hate Speech from Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P. A video shared on X showed Hindu Raksha Dal leader Pinky Chaudhry calling for a social boycott of Muslims and advocated creating unrest against those buying property in Hindu areas.

On 28th September, The Muslim X handle reported an incident where a Muslim

woman was physically assaulted by two Hindu men. According to the victim, the accused stopped her on a road and said she can't use the road, when the women resisted, accused Bablu and Raj Karan, beat her up.

Web portal *hindutvawatch.org* on 29<sup>th</sup> September reported a Hate Speech delivered at Chotradurga, Karnataka. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Surya Narayana and other right-wing leaders were seen delivering communal speeches against Muslims and Christians, to instigate hatred between the communities, but so far no action has been taken against them.

On 28th September, a tragic incident was reported from U.P.'s Prayagraj where a Dalit woman registered a Police complain against threatening calls on her mobile. Police officials assured her to take action and asked her to go back home, the next day, four policemen - Sudhir Pandy, Sabhajeet, Santosh and Arjun, took the woman away for further investigation. On the way to the Police Station, the woman was given an intoxicating cold drink, after which all four policemen raped the woman one by one.

Hate Speech delivered at Chotradurga, Karnataka, by VHP leader Surva Narayana and other rightwing leaders demonising Muslims and Christians. to instigate hatred between the communities



In a speech delivered at Ghaziabad, U.P., Yati Narsinghanand alleged that the police takes bribes from Muslims to let them carry out their anti-Hindu activities



Web portal *oneindia.com* on 30<sup>th</sup> September reported a case from U.P.'s Ghaziabad where repeated hate preacher, Yati Narsinghanand was seen alleging that police take bribe from Muslims. He also targeted U.P.'s C.M. Yogi Adityanath, saying

"Ravan se bada nahi hai Yogi, Kabhi ye lagta ho ki Ravan se bada hai Yogi.. satta kisiki humesha nahi rehne wali" (Yogi is not as powerful as Ravana, power does not last forever)

The Hindustan Times on 30<sup>th</sup> September reported an incident of mob lynching from Jaipur, Rajasthan. A 20-years-old Muslim man was beaten to death allegedly by a group of people in Jaipur's Gangapol area on Friday night following which a large mob from the two communities gathered on Ramganj-Badi Chaupar road, sparking communal tension in the city. Confirming the incident, Jaipur police commissioner Biju George Joseph said, "15 people were detained for their alleged involvement in the murder of the man. Further investigation is underway."

The Times of India on 30th September reported a case of custodial death from U.P.'s Bulandshahar. A 40-years-old man, Rashid Khan, allegedly died in police custody after he was caught in connection with a theft at a factory in Sikandrabad town of U.P.'s Bulandshahr district. Three police personnel, Sikandrabad's SHO Rajpal Tomar, constable Sachin Malik and another cop Neeraj Puri, were suspended for "negligence" and a magisterial probe was ordered by SSP - Bulandshahar. "A post-mortem was conducted and the cause of death remains inconclusive. There were no injury marks. His viscera has been preserved and sent for further tests. Its findings are awaited." Police sources added.



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

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

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

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



#### **JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES**

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