



HINDU HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2019

IndiaFacts Research Group

ABSTRACT

The Hindu Human Rights Report 2019 covers violations of human rights of Hindus in India. Human rights of Hindus in India continued to deteriorate with State-sponsored discrimination and continued attacks on Hindus and their places of worship.

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Hindu Human Rights Report

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About IndiaFacts Research Center

IndiaFacts has established itself as a platform for serious enquiry and discussion on dharma, comparative religion, cross-civilizational issues, Indology, and India-related topics. It aims to provide a fact-based counter to the mainstream media narrative about India.

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1 Introduction

There is no dearth of Human Rights Reports being produced on India like the USCIRF report¹, Amnesty International Report or Human Rights Watch² report. USCIRF produces a section on India. The US State department has its own reports, compiled by organizations such as the Amnesty and Human Rights Watch. However, all these reports have one significant omission. They focus exclusively on human rights of non-Hindus, with the exception of ‘dalits’.

This excludes a large percentage of the human rights violations on the mistaken assumption that rights violations in India can only take place by the ‘majority’ on the ‘minority’, which is at odds with international norms, the history of India, the plural nature of Hindu traditions, the brutalities Hindus have suffered from the followers of other religions and of the history of colonialism and imperialism in India.

The international norm is to cover human rights violations of all without making any assumptions. For instance, human rights reports on several countries like Mexico, Peru, Bahrain etc. cover human rights violations of the majority as well.³ The US hate crime database, maintained by the FBI,

tackles crimes against majority Whites and major Christian denominations.⁴ Similarly, the official hate crime statistics for England and Wales, include majority Whites and Christians⁵. In contrast, reports on Human Rights in India omit hate crimes against Hindus altogether or focus exclusively on “lower castes” or “minorities.”

India has a long history of human rights violations, persecution and subjugation of Hindus. Major parts of India were ruled by Muslims and Christians who were the dominant powers. Moreover, the presumed ‘majority religion’ in India i.e. Hinduism, is not a monotheistic doctrinal system, nor is it institutionalized. It has no equivalent of a Church or Pope, or even a doctrine or a singular Holy Book. It consists of innumerable sects, jatis and communities that are not a ‘congregation of believers’. Thus, the majority-minority concept, born of the European and Abrahamic experience of exclusive religion and monopolistic monotheism following a uniform doctrine, makes little sense.

Furthermore, there is no sense of exclusive salvation in Hinduism, where the “other” is condemned to hell for their belief. Hinduism

accepts multiplicity of ways. Thus, there is no religious basis for persecution of the “other.” This is not to refute that various forms of violence and discrimination indeed exist in India, as they do in all human societies, but that this is not related to the idea of ‘majority’ with monopolistic religion as its cause.

Brahmins in Tamil Nadu, for instance, are a tiny minority who have faced systematic discrimination from the State, which no Human Rights Report tracked. More egregiously, the Pandit community, a minority in the state of Jammu and Kashmir faced targeted ethnic cleansing and was also given short shrift in the Human Rights discourse. In this sense, India is a land of diverse communities, all a minority and it will be difficult to point out any uniform ‘majority grouping’. In fact, numbering at nearly 150 million, India may soon have the largest Muslim population in the world,

which may also be considered a dominant minority in a land of minorities.

Rights of all human beings are important, not just certain groups pre-filtered by category. The aim of this report on Hindu Human Rights in India is to address these lacunae in the Human Rights discourse, which fail to track violations against diverse communities, simply because they are classified as ‘Hindu’.

This report documents both systematic and episodic violations of human rights including sanctioned discrimination against Hindus by the State. This report is based on a multi-year work by IndiaFacts staff and volunteers to monitor freedom of religion or belief of Hindus in various parts of India, assess violations and progress, analyse India’s policies, and develop independent policy recommendations. The results of IndiaFacts’ research are provided through its findings and recommendations

1.1 India's Neighbourhood

In 1947 India was partitioned along religious lines based on the demand for a “separate Muslim” state. While India remained secular after the partition, Pakistan became a declared Islamic State, limiting rights for non-Muslim citizens.

In 2017 and 2018, religious freedom conditions of Hindus continued to deteriorate in India and in its neighbouring Islamic countries where Hindus are a minority. This ongoing downward trend often intersected with authoritarian practices characterized by hostility toward dissent, pluralism, independent media, and active civil society, took place under the guise of protecting national security or promoting secularism or implementing religious code like Islamic Shariah.

Whether in Hindu majority India, or in Hindu-minority Islamic nations like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Malaysia and Indonesia, both Governments and non-state actors targeted Hindus, dissenting members of majority communities, and nonreligious persons. The most severe abuses included mass atrocities, killings, enslavement, rape, imprisonment, forced displacement, forced conversions, intimidation, harassment,

property destruction, the marginalization of women, and bans on children participating in religious activities or education.

For example in August 2017, Rohingya Muslim militants in Myanmar killed around 100 Hindu civilians during attacks, according to an investigation by Amnesty International⁶. Based on interviews conducted there and across the border in Bangladesh, as well as photographic evidence analysed by forensic pathologists, it was learnt how Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) fighters sowed fear among Hindus and Buddhists with these brutal attacks. As per Tirana Hassan, Crisis Response Director at Amnesty International:

“Our latest investigation on the ground sheds much-needed light on the largely under-reported human rights abuses by ARSA during northern Rakhine State’s unspeakably dark recent history,

In this brutal and senseless act, members of ARSA captured scores of Hindu women, men, and children and terrorized them before slaughtering them outside their own villages. The perpetrators of this heinous crime must be held to account.”⁷

According to human rights group, South Asia Partnership-Pakistan, every year, Muslim

men abduct and forcibly convert to Islam about 1,000 women, mostly Hindus. About 5,000 Pakistani Hindus are forced every year to leave Pakistan for neighbouring democratic India to escape religious persecution, according to the Pakistan Hindu Council⁸. For example, a Hindu Brahmin girl Arti Kumari Sharma (19), who was a school teacher at Qasim Model School, was kidnapped at gun-point on 9th Sep 2017 from near her home in Pakistan's Khairpur district in Sindh, by a Muslim lord Ammer Wassan. She was forcefully converted to Islam, renamed as 'Mahwish' and married off to a local Muslim boy called Amir Bux. She was forced into signing an affidavit claiming that she married Bux and converted out of her own free will^{9, 10}. In March 2017 in a clear case of religious discrimination, Hindu students were asked to apologize for celebrating Holi in Sindh University, Jamshoro in Pakistan. This was all the more ironical because the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had greeted Hindus on the occasion of Holi and assured them of minority rights¹¹. There were numerous cases of abduction, forced conversion and religious discrimination of Hindus reported in both Pakistani and international media.

Bangladesh was witness to severe persecution of minority Hindus with numerous cases of Hindu temple vandalism, idol desecration, Muslim mob violence, and attacks of Hindu women. According to secretary general of Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajote, Gobinda Chandra Pramanik, there have been 1,792 incidents of persecution against people of religious minorities in Bangladesh in January to November 2018. Of these 1,792 occurrences, 50 took place on religious institutions and temples while 2734.81 acres were grabbed by local musclemen.¹².

In October 2017, the Purba Para Kali Mandir in Netrakona district of Mymensingh Division in northern Bangladesh was vandalized by Muslim intruders and four statues, Kali, Radha, Krishna and Jagai-Madhai, were desecrated and broken¹³. In another incident in December 2017, a Muslim mob desecrated idols and vandalized a Hindu temple, and went on a rampage in a Hindu neighbourhood apparently because police stopped a tafsir mahfil (Islamic discussion) they were attending in College Para area of Alamdanga town, Chuadanga. They took out their frustration on Hindus who just happened to be nearby. This strategy

has been used by Muslims to persecute Hindus for a long time¹⁴.

Among the range of universal, interdependent human rights, the freedom to follow one's conscience in matters of religion

or belief is essential to human dignity and human flourishing. Its full protection requires the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association; as a result, its expansion also bolsters these other fundamental rights

2 Legalized Discrimination by all Branches of Government

Article 29 & 30 of India's constitution discriminates against Hinduism on the basis of religion. This constitutional loophole allows the state & the central government to enact discriminatory laws, funding and programs which discriminate between citizens based on religious identity. This loophole also allows the Supreme Court of India to grant discriminatory exemptions,

like the RTE exemption to the government aided minority schools, to non-Hindus and dismiss Hindu appeals against discriminatory laws^{15,16}. Further, India's dominant intellectual narrative and global media support this discriminatory setup. Thus, post-colonial India continues the legacy of colonial rulers and their religions of discrimination against Hinduism.

2.1 Government Confiscation and Looting of Hindu Temples

India inherited British era law, which allowed the confiscation of wealth and donations of Hindu temples, but not of churches and places of worship of other religions. Post-independence, several state governments passed new laws enabling the government to confiscate Hindu temples and educational institutes. Judiciary allowed confiscation in most cases.

Government controlled temples suffer from mismanagement, corruption and act as a piggy bank for the government. State

governments have taken over nearly all major temples in India. Though, the state governments have not released the complete data set and the data is sketchy, it is estimated that the governments have sold about 55% of the temple land. In Odisha, 70,000 acres of temple land have been sold. In Andhra Pradesh, 101,854 acres of temple land has been sold and another 60,843 acres has been lost to illegal encroachment. In Kerala, 1070 acres of temple land has been sold. In some states, about 77% of the temple income is diverted to secular schemes like irrigation

and anti-Hindu religious schemes like funding Madrassas and Churches. In 2002, Karnataka state received Rs. 72 crore, from Hindu temples. It gave Rs. 60 crore to non-Hindu places of worship and Rs. 10 crore to Hindu temples. Karnataka state also collects 5% tax from Hindu temples. In Andhra Pradesh, Tirupati temple alone has revenue of Rs. 2500 crore i.e. \$373m. It is alleged that

about Rs. 2100 crore i.e. \$313m is diverted for non-Hindu purposes^{17,18,19}.

Article 29 of India's constitution protects minority places of worship from confiscation and plunder. Though, Hindus are minority in 6 states of India, Hindu temples do not enjoy such protections and are instead being confiscated, controlled and plundered.

2.2 Education Sector: No Level Playing Field and Government Confiscation

Both, the Government and the Judiciary, have misused article 30 of the constitution of India and a host of other laws like RTE act, to skew the playing field in the private education sector against Hindus. Many organizations realized that Hindu label is a liability because it exposes them to ideologically inspired attacks, serious financial disadvantage and operational burden, and paves way for government confiscation.

As a result, several entities, like Ramakrishna Mission, Arya Samaj and Jains, have filed law-suits and have done intense lobbying to get the coveted non-Hindu status. Jains were successful, but Arya Samaj and Ramakrishna mission were not so lucky. In West Bengal,

the Ramakrishna Mission whose colleges and schools were in danger of hostile takeover by the Marxist government, petitioned the courts to have their organization and movement declared a non-Hindu minority religion^{20, 21,22,23}. Government sponsored discrimination in education sector amounts to forcible conversion of Hindu entities. In most countries minorities vie to get the same right as the majority. It is a testament to India's skewed apartheid-like laws that majority groups fight to be classified as minorities.

In Punjab, Sikhs are in majority. SGPC is the supreme Sikh religious body with power to excommunicate any Sikh. Yet, in 2001, SAD-BJP government gave minority status to SGPC-run schools in Punjab²⁴.

2.3 Discriminatory Government Schemes

For past 700 years, India was ruled by non-Hindus. Many rulers promoted and propagated their own non-Hindu faith at cost of Hinduism. For instance, India's Muslim rulers promoted Islam by generously donating properties to Waqf²⁵. Quite often the property in question was a destroyed Hindu temple or confiscated from Hindu owners. Another example is the forced conversion for 200+ years during inquisition of Goa²⁶. Instead of rectifying past wrongs, the Government of India has continued colonial policies in perpetuating historic injustices against Hindus. The Central government of India runs 18 schemes and 7 statutory bodies for the welfare of non-Hindus. Central government allocated Rs. 17,232 crore i.e. \$3.82 billion to non-Hindu schemes in the 12th five year plan 2012-2017. This amounts to an annual tax of Rs. 2757.12/taxpayer, most of whom are Hindus. Moreover, a sizeable section of Christians and Muslims are tribal and OBC, respectively. Therefore, in addition to Rs. 17232 crore, non-Hindus also receive equal benefit from Rs. 40,430 crore i.e. \$8.98 billion allocated for welfare of targeted groups like Tribal, SC, OBC, DNT, PwD etc²⁷.

Several state governments also run their own schemes and statutory bodies for non-Hindu welfare. In 2011, West Bengal budgeted Rs. 375 crore i.e. \$83m for funding religious schools of Muslims (Madrasas) alone. About 79% of Rs. 375 crore was for Madrasa teacher salary²⁸. This is ironical that the Indian State directly funds religious education while it officially calls itself "secular" in the Constitution. This goes directly against the concept of a secular state.

A huge chunk of non-Hindu budget is distributed pro-rata between six religions. Under pro-rata, distribution is based on population percentage. So, Zoroastrians get almost 0%, Jains get 1.92%, Buddhists get 3.62%, Sikhs, who predominantly live in Punjab get 8.9%, Christians get 11.9% and Muslims get 73.65%. However no pro-rate distribution scheme for resources includes Hindus.

Eligibility for most welfare schemes, like those dedicated to OBCs, is decided at local level. In sharp contrast, eligibility for "minority" welfare schemes is decided at national level. This eligibility criteria discriminates against Hindus who form the persecuted minority in six states, one union territory and twenty four districts, but do not

receive any assistance from the state governments under the pretext of being a majority at the national level²⁹. Thus these schemes are not really “minority” schemes

since what constitutes a minority is contested. Rather we call them what they are —Hindu-excluding schemes.

2.3.1 Central & State Government Schemes which Exclude Hindus

In 2006, the former Prime Minister of India, Mahmoan Singh had said that minorities “must have the first claim on resources” and that Congress/ UPA would devise innovative plans for minorities, especially Muslims, in order to “empower them to share equitably the fruits of development.”³⁰ This is against the Forty-second Amendment of the Constitution of India, 1976 whereby the Preamble to the Constitution asserted that India is a secular nation, where all religions are to be treated equally under the eyes of law.

While India does not have an official state religion, in modern India the applicable code of law is unequal, and India's personal laws—on matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, alimony—vary with an individual's religion. Muslim Indians have Sharia-based Muslim Personal Law, which allows polygamy, for instance, which is disallowed under Hindu law. Moreover, the state routinely interferes in Hindu practices. It has no problems in liberally funding

various non-Hindus schemes and institutions. This practice of financial allocations specifically for non-Hindus is continuing even under the current so-called pro-Hindu government, and in fact many new schemes have been started.

In this IndiaFacts exclusive, we document the funding of various Hindu-excluding schemes by Central and State government based on available public records. Central and state government together spend hundreds of crores of rupees (of the tax-payer's money) for benefits which specifically exclude Hindus. While it is can be justified to support the development and progress of any economically backward community in terms of education, jobs and basic benefits, it is ironical that the Indian State uses religious identity of citizens as the basis of discriminatory practices, particularly those which historically ruled over India. This is nothing but State support for one religion while working to destroy another, and the very antithesis of a secular state.

2.3.1.1 Central Government

Below is the list of schemes, programs, and initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs:³¹ There are poor people in every community in India and the maximum number of poor are Hindus. While the schemes themselves are good, is it the business of the State to specifically exclude Hindu poor from such schemes and for a secular state to test the religion of citizens while disbursing funds? These are some of the schemes.

- Educational Empowerment
 - Scholarship schemes:
 - Pre-Matric Scholarship
 - Post - Matric Scholarship
 - Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship
 - Coaching schemes
 - Naya Savera – Free Coaching and Allied scheme
 - Exclusive new component for meritorious students of Science stream
 - ‘Nai Udaan’ - Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commissions, etc., for preparation of Mains Examination
 - ‘Padho Pardesh’ - Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies (v)

- Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF)
- Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), which implements following two schemes
 - Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for meritorious girls belonging to non-Hindu religions in class XI and XII
 - Grant - in - Aid to NGOs
- Area / Infrastructure Development
 - Multi - sectoral Development Programme (MsDP)
- Economic Empowerment
 - Skill Development
 - ‘Seekho Aur Kamao’ (Learn & Earn) – Skill development initiative for non-Hindus.
 - Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development
 - (USTTAD) (c) ‘Nai Manzil’ - A scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from non-Hindu communities. Concessional loans to minorities through National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)
- Women Empowerment

- 'Nai Roshni' - Scheme for Leadership Development of non-Hindu women
- Special Needs
 - 'Hamari Dharohar' - To preserve rich heritage and culture of non-Hindus.
 - Waqf Management through: (a) Central Waqf Council (b) National Waqf Development Corporation (N AWADCO)
 - Haj Management

Nai Manzil

The development objective of the Nai Manzil is to provide education and Skills Training for non-Hindus. The project intends to improve completion of secondary education and market-driven skills training for targeted youth from non-Hindu communities. The project comprises of two components. The first component is results based financing for increased education attainment and market-driven training. The second component, technical assistance for implementation of the Nai Manzil scheme objective is to strengthen capacity of the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) for project implementation, planning, and policy development.³²

Total project cost is USD 100 m or INR 650 Crores. Launched in December 2015, the scheme aims to benefit the minority youths in the age group of 17 to 35 years who are school-dropouts or educated in the community education institutions like Madarsas, by providing them an integrated input of formal education (up till Class VIII or X) and skill training along with certification, with a view of enabling them to seek better employment in the organized sector and equipping them with better lives. Minimum 30% seats are earmarked for (non-Hindu) girls. It includes a Non-residential programme of 9-12 months duration involving a Basic Bridge Programme (For Class VIII or Class X) for their education, along with training in trade based skills for sustained livelihood/gainful employment³³. For details about the scheme please read the [policy document](#).

Maulana Azad Education Foundation Scholarship

The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) has sanctioned scholarships to 48,000 girl students studying in Class XI for the academic year 2015-16, under Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious girls belonging to non-Hindu

communities. Total Scholarship amounted to Rs. 57.60 crore. Out of this, 45,700 students have already received the first instalment of scholarship.

Nai Udaan

Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing the scheme Nai Udaan for support to non-Hindu Students for preparation of Main Examination, who clear Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, State Public Service Commissions. The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the non-Hindu candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the State Governments and to increase the representation of the non-Hindu in the Civil Services. Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Union Minister of Minority Affairs launched Online Portal for Nai Udaan on 28th May, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi³⁴.

Entrance examinations include prelims examinations for recruitment to Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments.

Under this scheme stipend of Rs. 1500 per month and Rs. 3000/- per month is provided to the local and outstation students respectively.³⁵

Nai Roshni

Nai Roshni - The Scheme or Leadership Development of non-Hindu Women was started in 2012. The objective of the scheme is to empower and instil confidence among non-Hindu women, including their neighbours from other communities living in the same village/locality, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels³⁶. The effort would embolden non-Hindu women to move out of the confines of their home and community and assume leadership roles and assert their rights, collectively or individually, in accessing services, facilities, skills, and opportunities besides claiming their due share of development benefits of the Government for improving their lives and living conditions. "Nai Roshni" programme is run with the help of NGOs, Civil societies and Government Institutions all over the country. Rs. 14.13 Crore have been released and 69 thousand 150 women have been covered till 31st January 2017, Rs. 14.81 crore were released and 58 thousand 725

women were covered in 2015-16, while Rs. 13.78 Crore were released and 71 thousand 75 women were covered in 2014-16³⁷.

Naya Savera

The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements Free Coaching and Allied Scheme under which free coaching is given to the non-Hindu students through empanelled coaching institutions/ organizations for preparation of various entrance examinations including prelims examinations for recruitment to

Group ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments including public sector undertakings, banks, insurance companies etc. Under the said scheme stipend of Rs. 1500 per month and Rs. 3000/- per month is provided to the local and outstation students respectively³⁸. Community –wise details of beneficiaries to whom financial assistance has been provided during the last three years and the current year are given below:

S.No.	Community	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (As on 28.02.2017)
1	Muslims	213	238	606	564
2	Christians	257	451	341	185
3	Sikhs	9	5	28	12

Seekho aur Kamao

The scheme “Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)” is a placement linked skill development scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) all over the country. The Government is encouraging the youth from non-Hindu communities to take up employment based skills training and the Ministry has extended

the scheme across the country. So far, the Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 460.10 crore to cover 217,454 number of non-Hindu youth under the scheme.³⁹

2.3.1.1.1 Overall Performance of Central Minority Schemes⁴⁰

- During the last about 3 years, about 2 crore 42 lakh non-Hindu students have been provided various scholarships.

- In 2018, more than 1.5 crore students have applied for pre-matric, post-matric, merit-cum-means and other various scholarships given by the Ministry of Minority Affairs
- "Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres" have been established in 100 districts across the country where various courses related to job-oriented skill development are being provided
- Courses like "GST Facilitator" and "Sanitary Supervisor" are providing employment and employment opportunities to non-Hindu youths in a large number
- In last about 3 years, schemes like "Hunar Haat", "Seekho aur Kamao", "Nai Manzil", "Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme", and "Nai Roshni" have succeeded in providing employment and employment opportunities to more than 8.5 lakh people from non-Hindu communities
- In 2018 "Hunar Haat" has been successful in providing employment and employment opportunities to more than 3 lakh artisans and other people associated with them
- Participation of non-Hindus in Central Government jobs, which was about 5

percent in 2014, has gone up to 10 percent in 2017

- In 2018's Civil Services exam, 125 non-Hindu youth have been selected, out of which 52 are from Muslim community

2.3.1.2 *Bihar*⁴¹

- **Interest free loan to Muslims:** Proposal of Interest free loan scheme of Rs 400 crores venture Capital Fund for the benefit of the Muslims including Bihari Muslims who are living in or out of Bihar, including NRIs who want to establish industries in Bihar can avail this interest free loan.
- **Education Loan:** Maximum loan of Rs. 250,000/- @ Rs. 50,000/- per year for professional and technical courses at a low rate of 3% simple interest per annum which is refundable in five years after completion of the course.
- **Micro Financing Scheme:** Loan @ interest of 3% per annum at a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- is provided to non-Hindus to help them in starting small business / shops.

In 2017, Bihar government today enhanced aid to divorced Muslim women from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000 with an objective to provide them employment. Additionally steps are being initiated for providing Rs 100

crore to Bihar State Minority Financial Corporation every year for providing employment to non-Hindu youths under chief minister minority employment loan scheme effective since 2012-13. Loan ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh was being given to unemployed non-Hindu youth at 5 percent interest rate.⁴²

2.3.1.3 Gujarat

According to a report, Gujarat has no government department for religious minorities, nor is there any separate budget allocation for them.⁴³

2.3.1.4 Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh Minorities Finance and Development Corporation provides the following financial benefits to non-Hindus :⁴⁴

- Term loan scheme at 6% interest rate
- Educational loan at 3% interest rate

2.3.1.5 Karnataka

- **Swavalambana Margin Money Loan Scheme⁴⁵**: 5% interest rate business loans
- **Arivu Scheme⁴⁶**: Loans at very low interest rate for professional courses like Medical, Engineering, Dental, Master Degree Courses, Diploma Courses, Nursing, B.Ed, BBM, BCA, D.Ed, D-pharma, Pharma-D and ITI are provided financial assistance ranging from

Rs.10,000/- to Rs.75,000/- per year till completion of the course

- **Karnataka Christian Development Parishath⁴⁷**: Karnataka Christian Development Parishath was established on 5.11.2011 for over all development of Christian Community.
- **Shramashakti⁴⁸**: Non-Hindu artisans will be financially assisted to improve their Artistic and Technical skill to carry on with their trade or for commencing, or developing small business and with a loan up to Rs.50,000/- (maximum) will be provided at lower rate of interest to improve their business. Out of this amount, 50% of the loan will be considered as back end subsidy to the beneficiary.
- **Arivu -2:⁴⁹** For Students of non-Hindu communities who have applied for CET, NEET
- **Ganga Kalyan Scheme⁵⁰**: In this scheme, irrigation facility is provided to small and marginal farmers of Karnataka belonging to non-Hindu groups only
- **Land Purchase Scheme⁵¹**: Under this scheme, the Corporation will purchase the agricultural land and this will be given to the poor landless non-Hindu farmers in the rural areas.

▪ **Christian Development Program⁵²:**

The Government of Karnataka has implemented numerous schemes for the development of Christian community such as:

- providing financial assistance for the Construction of Community Halls
- Repairs and Renovation of Churches
- Funds for providing basic necessities to Orphanages
- Old Age Homes
- Providing various Trainings under Skill Development Programmes
- Providing scholarships and incentives to Christian students.

▪ **Bidaai (Shaadi Scheme)⁵³:** Bidaai Scheme for financial assistance to the poor non-Hindu women/divorcees and widows belonging to Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist and Parsi community of the state for their marriage purpose.

▪ **Madrassa Scheme⁵⁴:** Providing drinking water, lavatories, class rooms, hostels, teaching and non-teaching staff, tools & equipment required for computer education, library, laboratory and other facilities to Madrasas in Karnataka.

2.3.1.6 Kerala⁵⁵

- CA/ICWA/CS Scholarship
- Housing Scheme for Divorced Women and Widows
- Career Guidance for Minority students
- Fee reimbursement for Private ITI students
- Drinking Water Scheme for Minority Concentrated Areas
- Prof. Joseph Mundassery Scholarship Award for Talented Minority Students
- Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP)
- Kerala State Minority Development Financial Corporation (KSMDFC)
- Scholarship for Nursing Diploma /Paramedical courses
- Scholarship for 3 year Diploma courses
- Premarital counseling for non-Hindu Youth
- Establishing a Minority Research Institute in affiliation with University of Calicut
- C. H. Muhammed Koya Scholarship/Hostel Stipend for Girls students
- Civil Service Fee Re-imbursement Scheme
- Cash Award for meritorious Urdu students for 10th level

2.3.1.7 *Tamil Nadu*⁵⁶

- Term loan at low interest rate
- The State Government had sanctioned Entrepreneur Development Program training to 1000 Muslim Youth with a minimum loan assistance of Rs. 25000/- to each beneficiary after the completion of EDP training.
- Formation of Industrial Co-operative Societies for Muslim Youth: TAMCO loan assistance to 470 Muslim Youth for the formation of Industrial Co-operative Societies/starting of Self Ventures
- Microfinance loans to non-Hindus at very low interest rate
- Mahila Samridhi Yojana Scheme in Tailoring, Knitting and Embroidery for non-Hindu women

2.3.1.8 *Telangana*

In October 2017, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao cleared a series of sops for Muslims including easier loans and reservations⁵⁷:

- Loans up to Rs 2.50 lakh for youth with 100 per cent subsidy and without bank linkage for self-employment schemes
- 10 per cent quota in 2BHK scheme and quota in all welfare schemes for Muslims

- All entrance and recruitment exams to be held in Urdu apart from English and Telugu.
- Government recognition to the courses offered by Jamia Nizamia.

Economic Schemes⁵⁸

- **Subsidy cum Loan Scheme:** Subsidy portion enhanced and ranges from 50% to 80% and loan scheme from 1.00 Lakh to 10.00 Lakhs. This year allocation for this scheme is 150 Crores.
- **Training and Employment:** Non-Hindu Youth are given job oriented training and placement. Government arranges the Training through reputed Institutions and courses include Civil, Industrial, Electrical and Computer related courses. Allocation is 12.00 Crores.

Social Development Schemes⁵⁹

- **Shaadi Mubarak Scheme:** For assisting the non-Hindu girls at the time of marriage. Since, 2nd October, 2014 more than 43747 non-Hindu girls are sanctioned grant under this scheme amounting to more than 223.10 Crores.
- **Preservation & Promotion of Urdu Language and Construction of Shaadikahans:** Government of Telangana sanctions funds for the preservation & promotion of Urdu

Language and culture and also construction of Shaadikhanas. Allocation is Rs.23.00 Crores.

- **Assistance to Christian Minority Finance Corporation:** Rs.7.00 Crores for welfare of Christians. This grant is for construction/repairs/maintenance of Churches etc. and Jerusalem Pilgrimage.
- **Dawath-e-Iftaar and Christmas Feast:** Through this Scheme Government arranges Dinner to poor Muslims and Christians at the time of their festivals and Distribution of 2.00 Lakh Clothes, Gift packets for Ramzan and Christmas respectively.

2.3.1.9 *Uttar Pradesh*

Scholarship Schemes Sponsored by State Government of U.P.⁶⁰

- Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme & Fees Reimbursement Scheme for Minority Community
- Daughter's Marriage Scheme for Minority
- Community Coaching Scheme for Minority Community
- Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) - Online Monitoring System

2.3.1.10 *West Bengal*⁶¹

In West Bengal, Muslims are almost 30% of population, and in some districts like Malda they are in clear majority being well over 80%.

- **Term Loan Scheme:** West Bengal Minorities' Development & Finance Corporation is providing the Term loan up to Rs. 5 lakh for persons belonging to the notified minority communities at 6%.
- **Micro Finance Direct to SHGs:** Small loans up to Rs. 50,000 per member of Self Help Group (SHGs) for income generating economic activities provided directly to SHGs at 7%
- **Minority Women Empowerment Program:** This program is launched by MA & ME Department for providing soft loan to non-Hindu women for undertaking any income generation activity. Subsidy @50% of loan amount, 3% interest
- **Educational Loan:** Maximum RS.30 lakh for pursuing professional courses like Medical, Engineering, Management, Nursing and Law etc. at 3%

It must be noted that an average general category Hindu can avail similar loans at almost 3x the rates at which Muslims are getting such facilities.

2.3.2 Observations

Non-Hindus are as much a part of India as are Hindus. But there are a few hard questions that need to be asked:

- a. Can a Muslim in Kashmir or Murshidabad district of West Bengal, which are Muslim majority areas, really be considered a minority?
- b. Should Muslims like Owaisi of Hyderabad who make open anti-Hindu statements or Kashmiri stone pelters/ separatist sympathizers who consider themselves non-Indian be the beneficiaries of minority schemes?
- c. Are minority scheme incentivizing conversion to Christianity or Islam?

Sikhs and Jains who have been classified as minorities have much higher incomes than Hindus. Similarly Christians have higher

incomes as do Muslims in many parts of India. According to Sarvekshana 101 report based on NSSO survey, at Rs 1,757 per month, Hindu households had the lowest average consumption expenditure in rural India. In rural areas, Muslims are at par with Hindus. Christian households were the richest among the three major religions in both rural and urban areas, spending Rs 2,200 and Rs 3,242 per month respectively⁶². It is to be noted that the average household MPCE is a proxy for income and reflects the living standard of a family⁶³.

Yet non-Hindus are beneficiaries of numerous religion-based schemes to the exclusion of Hindus. It is high time that the government of India adopts an economic scale and shuns religion based schemes that create resentment and creates and deepens communal divides in society.

2.4 Interference of Judiciary in Hindu Traditions and Freedom to Practice

There have been numerous instances of direct interference of judiciary into Hindu customs and traditions. When it comes to practices of other religions the Supreme Court often takes a hands-off position, recently refusing to hear a petition for entry of Muslim women in mosques, for instance⁶⁴.

These interventions were ostensibly made under the guise of addressing and correcting what the Supreme Court Lords considered human rights violations within Hindu society. This civilizing mission is generally restricted to Hindus alone.

2.4.1 Sabarimala Verdict

In September 2018, the Supreme Court overturned a centuries old Hindu tradition, which restricted the entry of women of a particular age into the Hindu temple of Sabarimala.⁶⁵ This happened despite the petition being filed by an unaffected party, the Young Lawyers Collective, in Delhi, rather than devout Hindu women who would be desirous of visiting the temple. The Sabarimala issue was framed as one of violations of women's rights and patriarchy, despite the fact that hundreds of thousands of devout Hindu women protested in Kerala

against the Court judgment and lifting of restrictions⁶⁶ and the infringement of their “right to wait” according to tradition⁶⁷

The Hindu tradition is diverse and each temple has its own rules. There are also women-only Hindu temples⁶⁸. The issue at Sabarimala was never about “women’s rights.” The deity Ayyappa who is the presiding lord at Sabarimala is a Naistika Brahmachari and has thus taken a vow of celibacy. Therefore women of menstruating age do not visit the residence of this deity and Hindu women have no problem with observing this practice. Moreover this restriction doesn’t apply to the numerous other Ayyappa temples across India which women visit. However, the Supreme Court of India passed a judgment that all women can visit Sabarimala and the Communist government of Kerala used riot police against devotees to forcibly get non-Hindu non-devotee women to enter and desecrate the temple. Only a small motley group of feminists, Christian activists, Muslim activists, and communists, were busy in trying to breach the tradition⁶⁹.

2.4.2 Diwali Firecracker Ban

In 2017, Supreme Court ordered a ban on the sale of firecrackers for this Diwali apparently to prevent pollution. The entire blame for pollution has been unequivocally pinned on Diwali, without the slightest evidence.⁷⁰ Ironically the Court itself admitted there was no scientific evidence to suggest firecrackers had any impact on existing pollution levels. But the then Union Minister for Science and Technology, Environment, and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan tweeted that he welcomed the cracker ban in Delhi, as he “believed” it would help reduce pollution. Again, this ban was restricted to the Hindu festival of Diwali and no such restriction was put on using firecrackers on New Years’ Day.

2.4.3 Jallikattu Ban

In 2006, a judge in the Madras High Court suo moto banned Jallikattu, even though she was hearing an entirely different case and no one had petitioned against the sport. The Judge was Justice R Bhanumati, who was a Christian. However, that does not automatically imply any kind of bias, unless such bias is evident in her work. Apart from unilaterally banning Jallikattu, without any petition to do so, Justice Bhanumati appears to have passed harsh judgements on other

Hindu matters as well. Justice Bhanumati ruled against the right of Podhu Dikshidhars, traditional Hindu priests at the fifth-century Natarajar Temple at Chidambaram to manage their own affairs.⁷¹ While the UPA government was still in power, the Supreme Court, in its subsequent order in 2014 banned Jallikattu altogether. In 2016 the BJP government passed a notification reversing the earlier one from 2011, promulgated by Jairam Ramesh of the Congress, and allowing Jallikattu to take place. However the Supreme Court, despite a heavy case backlog of nearly 50,000 pending cases, over a thousand of which are pending for over 10 years, decided that it must urgently protect bulls from their owners and stayed the regulation.

2.4.4 Dahi Handi Restrictions

Forming human pyramids is a folk sport in many parts of the world. The building of *castells* is a popular folk festival in Barcelona, for instance. Young children are key to this competitive sport due to weight differential needed to get to the top of the pyramid. The Hindu festival of Krishna Janamashtami, celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna, holds such a pyramid building in celebration of Krishna climbing to get to the

handi or pot of butter. Catalan castells have come to India to learn of the amazing work of the govindas who build the tallest human pyramids.

The Supreme Court in August 2016, upheld a Bombay High Court order restricting the Dahi Handi pyramid participants to over 18 years of age and limiting the height to 20 feet, effectively killing the sport.⁷² After many appeals, and the submission of the State government, the restriction was changed to a minimum age of 14 years by the Bombay High Court, again much higher than the age of children who participate in the Barcelona event. While Catalan people are allowed to celebrate their sport without restrictions, the

Colonial Court of India remains intent on civilizing Hindu natives.

The restrictions of Indian Courts are generally aimed at Hindu folk traditions and use an “essential practice” test. Such a test, which needs a practice to be justified in scripture or ruled “essential” to a religion, uses the template of doctrine-driven practice from Abrahamic religions and make little sense for organic folk-based native traditions which have no such doctrines or “essentials.” This allows rampant interference by the Courts in Hindu practices while leaving other religions protected from interference.

3 Persecution of Hindus by Dominant or Ruling Ideologies

Several states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, etc. are dominated by either race or class or religion based ideology which is hostile to Hinduism.

3.1 Dravidian Extremism

Tamil Nadu is ruled by the Dravidian parties for over three decades. This Dravidian ideology believes in the discredited racial theory of Aryan vs. Dravidian race and anti-Brahminism. Dravidian anti-Brahminism is similar to European anti-Semitism⁷³. Dravidian ideologues use atheism, socialism and rationalism as a tool to demonize pantheist Hinduism and favour “monotheistic” religions. Its founder E. V. Ramasamy smashed Hindu deities and made hate speeches in public meetings. The Supreme Court of India agreed that Periyar’s actions violated hate speech laws but refused to take action.⁷⁴ Periyar stated—“The Arabic word for Dravidian religion is Islam”.⁷⁵ Dravidian Patriarch and five times Chief Minister, Karunanidhi reportedly called Hindus ‘thieves’. He stated, “Do Hindus have a religion? Who is a Hindu? If you ask some right thinking people they'll say that Hindu actually means a thief”.⁷⁶

This hate-filled rhetoric fuel attacks on Hindu priests and temples. In 2006, Dravidian extremists carried out 9 attacks on Hindu temples and priests^{77,78,79}. According to Arjun Sampath, the leader of Hindu People’s Party, “Hundreds of Hindu temples across Tamil Nadu are vandalized regularly by anti-Hindu forces. They loot donation boxes that are kept outside the temples. Hundreds of ancient idols have been stolen from these temples”.⁸⁰

Dravidian political parties have electoral alliance with Islamist fundamentalist parties. Islamists have carried out systematic attacks on Hindu Munnani leaders. About 16 Hindu leaders of BJP, RSS and Munnani organizations were killed in 2013 and 2014 allegedly by Islamist terror group Al Ummah⁸¹. Six prominent Hindu Munnani leaders were murdered⁸². According to Hindu Makkal Katchi, 127 Hindu leaders have been killed in the last 30 years⁸³. The investigation

of Tamil Nadu police into the killings of Hindu leaders is lethargic, conviction is rare, media coverage sporadic and the government shows no zeal to ensure safety of Hindu leaders and activists⁸⁴

Hundreds of Hindu temples have been confiscated and are mismanaged by the Tamil Nadu state government under Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act XXII of 1959. Today, this draconian act controls 36,425 temples, 56 mathas or religious centres, 1,721 specific endowments and 189 trusts. This discriminatory act applies only to Hindu and Jain places of worship⁸⁵. Prominent leaders of Dravidian Movement have declared ‘blowing up of the Nataraja Temple by a cannon’ as the goal of their movement⁸⁶.

Tamil Nadu government gets its highest income from temples. But no one is aware of what is happening to the devotees’ financial offerings and how these offerings are being utilised.

As per the trustee of the temple in north Chennai “In between this confusion, some of the HR&CE Department employees are committing irregularities. The end result is, temples suffer despite copious offering from devotees.”⁸⁷

Human rights groups often turn a blind eye towards Dravidian extremism. Amnesty’s Aakar Patel considers Dravidian political parties as inclusive and inoffensive⁸⁸.

3.2 Communist Extremism: Kill with Impunity

Communists have ruled the states of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura for several years. Indian communists display prejudice towards Hinduism and favour Abrahamic religions. In the 1980s, when the temples in Kerala came under attack and many idols went missing, some of the Hindu activists approached EK Nayanar, the then communist Chief Minister of the State. He scoffed at them and said, “What kind of Gods you are worshipping? Gods who cannot take care of themselves? How will these Gods ensure your safety?”⁸⁹

Communists have systematically killed 19 Hindu advocates in Kerala between 2006 and 2008⁹⁰. In 2012, Communist leader MM Mani proudly announced in a public rally that the Communist Party ‘had systematically eliminated political rivals in 1980’s’⁹¹. Police protection and investigation of the killings

are almost non-existent and conviction is extremely rare. In 1999, BJP Youth leader Jayakrishnan Master, who was a school teacher, was killed inside a classroom in front of his sixth grade students. One accused Pradeepan was found guilty. Communist government gave him an early release from jail⁹². This cycle of killings and counter-killings started in 1968 with the murder of RSS leader Vadikkal Ramakrishnan⁹³.

Apart from this, Maoists operate in more than 12 states in India. It is one of the single largest terror group in the world with a strength of 6500 to 9500 armed terrorists. In the last 30 years, the Maoist terrorism has claimed 17,384 lives. They have a history of attacking Hindu temples, ashrams and killing Hindu practitioners.

3.3 Islamo-Socialist Misrule in Uttar Pradesh: Impunities Galore

Till recently, Uttar Pradesh was being ruled by the pro-Muslim Socialist Party (SP) whose supreme leader had earned the title of ‘Mullah’ because he ordered a lethal police action against Hindu devotees at Ayodhya in 1990. The death toll in this police action ordered by Mulayam Singh, who was then the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, was at least 16, with many observers estimating a higher death toll between 168 and 400⁹⁴. In a January 15, 2016 speech, Mulayam had justified his lethal order⁹⁵. On March 2, 2006,

Mulayam Singh addressed an anti-George Bush protest held by Islamist outfits. This protest triggered communal violence killing four and injuring eight. The violence had started after the Islamist extremists tried to force Hindu traders to shut their shops⁹⁶. During August 2013, Muzaffarnagar riots, a sting operation done by Headlines Today revealed that Uttar Pradesh Minister Azam Khan had ordered the Muzaffarnagar district Police Officers to release Muslims and not take action against them⁹⁷.

3.4 Christian Extremism

Predatory proselytization is also a major threat to Hindus. However, mainstream media does not report such cases of coercive conversions which often run into tens of thousands or lakhs and dub any reporting as Hindutva propaganda. On the other hand, a few handful re-conversion to Hinduism or Ghar Wapsi is blown out of proportion and reported by both mainstream media and international media for days.

Several Christian terror outfits persecute Hindus in India. Official slogan of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) is “Nagaland for Christ”. Its aim is to establish a sovereign monopolistic Christian state. The group reportedly indulges in kidnapping, assassination, extortion, forced conversion, and other terrorist activities^{98, 99}.

Official aim of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) is ‘to expand the kingdom of God and Jesus Christ in Tripura’. Tripura government stated that the Baptist church is backing NLFT. NLFT has put a ban on celebrating Hindu festivals. In August 2000,

NLFT murdered Swami Shanti Kali and forcibly closed all 18 branches of Shanti Kali Mission. In May 2000, NLFT killed 25 Hindus in Bagber massacre. In 2001, NLFT killed 16 Hindus, who were preparing for Sun Solstice festival¹⁰⁰. It is believed that as many as 5,000 tribal villagers were forcibly converted during 1999 to 2001. These forcible conversions, sometimes including the use of "rape as a means of intimidation", have also been noted by academics outside of India¹⁰¹.

In 2009, Manmasi National Christian Army (MNCA), a Christian extremist group operating in North East India was charged with forcing Hindus to convert at gunpoint. Seven or more youths were charged with visiting, a Hindu village, armed with guns, and pressuring residents to convert to Christianity. The militants were seen holding a gun in one hand and a Bible in another hand. They also desecrated temples by painting crosses on the walls with their blood¹⁰².

3.5 Jammu & Kashmir: No one Committed Pandit Genocide

Nearly all the Human Rights & Religious Freedom organizations gave short shrift to the plight of the Hindu minority in J&K. They also misrepresented the problem. For instance, USCIRF 2001 report stated that Kashmir is not a religious problem. The only exception being the Human Rights report brought out by the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) that provides a factual over-view of Hindu plight in J&K.

In April 2018, journalist and author Tavleen Singh claimed that then Governor Jagmohan abetted the ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir valley which took place in 1989/90 and peaked on the night of 19 Jan 1990¹⁰³.

This report will not cover Pandit genocide, confiscation of Hindu properties and destruction of Hindu temples in J&K because HAF has already covered it in detail¹⁰⁴. Hence, this report is limited to government discrimination against the Hindu & Buddhist minority in J&K.

Jammu & Kashmir consists of three regions. 55% of the population resides in Muslim dominated Kashmir Valley, 43% of the population resides in Hindu-dominated

Jammu and 2% of the population resides in Buddhist dominated Ladakh¹⁰⁵. Successive central and state governments have discriminated against Jammu and Ladakh. In 1980s, Ladakh Buddhist Association led a mass movement against discrimination by the Government resulting in formation of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council¹⁰⁶. Jammu has witnessed several mass protests against discrimination but discrimination continues unabated¹⁰⁷. There has never been a non-Muslim Chief Minister of the state of Jammu and Kashmir or one from the Jammu or Ladakh region.

Current Status

The erstwhile BJP-PDP ruled state government of Jammu & Kashmir, continued its discriminatory policies against Jammu. Jammu pays 3 times higher tax than Kashmir but receives very little in return from the state and central government. In year 2014-15, Jammu generated total tax revenue of Rs.4127 cr and Kashmir generated total tax revenue of Rs. 1398 cr¹⁰⁸.

In the last 3 years, Rs 2200 cr were spend on tourism development in J&K. Peaceful & tourist friendly Jammu received Rs 100 cr

and the Kashmir valley, racked by terrorist violence, received Rs 2100 cr¹⁰⁹.

In 2016, Union ministry of Home affairs sanctioned 10,000 SPO jobs for J&K. Kashmir got 8000 jobs and Jammu got 2000 jobs¹¹⁰.

In March 2017, Government of India increased number of Post Graduate seats in

J&K Medical colleges. Kashmir got 57 seats and Jammu got 13 seats¹¹¹.

In March 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu was greeted with massive protests against discrimination towards Jammu in all spheres like government allocation of funds, government jobs, development schemes, tourism, power, health and allied sectors¹¹².

3.6 Terrorism

In the last 35 years, about 100,053 Indians died due to terrorism. 99.87% of these terror deaths have been due to terrorism with non-Hindu affiliation¹¹³.

Terrorist Violence in India	
Terror Ideology	Est. Deaths
Islam	44750
Left	29291
Sikh	21660
Christian	4224
Hindu	128
Total	100053

Note: Christian & Leftist numbers are understated because data for 1980s decade is not available.

Non-Hindu terror groups are sympathetic to each other's cause and often collude with each other in attacking Hindus. Maoist leader Kishen stated that he supports Islamic militancy¹¹⁴. Several reports indicate a Maoist-Jihadi nexus in eastern India¹¹⁵. In Orissa, several incidents point to a nexus between Christian extremists and Maoists. As per Former IB Chief, Maoists consider

Christian tribals as their own people and community¹¹⁶. Maoists oppose propagation of Hinduism but not Christianity. In 2008, Maoists created a hit list of 14 Hindu activists in Odisha. In 2009, Maoists killed Mr. Panigrahi who was on the hit-list¹¹⁷. In 2013, 8 Maoists, including 7 Christians, were found guilty of attacking a Hindu ashram and killing 5 persons including an 82 year old monk, women and children¹¹⁸.

Hindu terrorism is almost non-existent, yet hype is created by several politicians, section of media, activists and human rights groups. In sharp contrast, the same people and organizations mostly turn a blind eye to acts of terror committed by non-Hindu terror groups, which killed around 99,925 Indians in the last 35 years¹¹⁹.

The UPA government, ruling India from 2004-2014 deliberately tried to create a meme of 'Hindu Terror'¹²⁰. Home Ministry insider RVS Mani exposed this plot documenting the coercion of the bureaucracy to toe the narrative of the government in fabricating Hindu terror—"Once the top leadership and the minister had decided it was 'Hindu terror', R K Singh had no choice but to communicate this to the public. There

was no (intelligence) input about ‘Hindu terror.’

The idea of ‘Hindu terror’ was to implicate the victim. Hindu temples, ashrams, pilgrims, and train passengers are the prime terror targets. In 1980s Punjab, Khalistani terrorism claimed 21000 lives. Terrorists explicitly targeted & killed Hindus including 100s of passengers, segregated, removed and killed from buses and trains, but USCIRF 2001 report portrays Hindus as accused in Punjab. USCIRF 2001 report blames the Hindu “Sangh Parivar” for violence against Sikhs during 1984 Delhi riots, while it has been documents that Sangh Parivar saved hundreds of Sikh lives and played a crucial role in restoring peace. This well-known role

has been noted in the Judicial Inquiry report submitted by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Nanavati and was also praised by Late President of India, Gyani Zail Singh who was a Sikh and leader of the rival congress party¹²¹.

The year 2017 saw 358 terrorist-related deaths in Jammu and Kashmir–98% more than in 2013 when 181 deaths were recorded. Terrorists succeeded in attacking the Sunjwan Army Camp, where six army personnel, one civilian and three terrorists died¹²². As many as 324 security personnel have died at the hands of terrorists over the past five years. Terrorists killed 83 security personnel in 2017, a 36% increase from 61 in 2013¹²³.

4 Incident Reports

In 2017 and 2018, religious freedom conditions of Hindus continued a downward trend in India despite India being ruled by a so-called “Hindu Nationalist” party —the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). India’s history as a multicultural and multi-religious society remained threatened by an increasingly exclusionary conception of Islamic Shariah and hardline Christian fundamentalism in the guise of secularism, along with far-Left terror groups propped up by an “Urban Naxal” narrative.

During the year, Islamic groups sought to implement Shariah law in India through violence, intimidation, and harassment against Hindus including Dalits. In Muslim-majority Kashmir and states like West Bengal and Kerala where Muslims are a very large “minority group”, Hindus continue to face severe persecution owing to a vote-bank politics oriented government. Christian groups have been very vocal in the anti-Hindu posturing and in Christian majority states in north-eastern India, Hindus

including tribals continue to face severe persecution by the majority Christian community. Both public and private actors pursued this effort.

A summary of documented instances of various types of such discrimination and persecution is presented. It is to be noted that these numbers are perhaps a **tiny fraction** of the real number of such incidents, due to **severe under-reporting** of such cases in mainstream media.

2017-2018	Documented Cases
Love Jihad, Violence against Women and Rape	100
Islamic Attacks & Communal Clashes	32
Attacks on Hindu festivals and places of worship	25
Political Violence and Killing of Hindus	40
Religious Persecution	32
Dalit Persecution by Muslims	25

4.1 Love Jihad, Violence against Women and Rape

4.1.1 Key Findings

Love Jihad is a term used to describe campaigns under which Muslim men target Hindu women for conversion to Islam by feigning love and often using sexual relationship as a tool for blackmail. Love jihad may or may not involve coercion but it does involve intent, and, once consummated, it may be followed by abusive behaviour towards the girl. Often this is accompanied by violence and in some cases the women are murdered for refusal to convert. Love Jihad is very much a well-established global Islamization strategy and majority Hindu India is one of the largest untapped markets. There have been numerous documented cases of love jihad in both India and abroad, which however the mainstream media tends to ignore. There are also terminological differences – in UK, the term used is “grooming”.

In August 2017, English media house Times Now accessed the secret reports, made by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Kerala Police, which revealed a plot by Islamists to hunt, convert and exploit Hindu girls. The investigative agencies found that Islamist organisations had formed ‘Dawa

Squads’ to forcibly convert Hindu girls of a particular disposition in Kerala into Islam.

The ‘Dawa squads’ targeted girls who are graduates, belong to a weaker section within the Hindu fold, and are young (between 18 and 28 preferably). The NIA probe has revealed that the "mentor" who persuaded Hindu girls to embrace Islam is a woman associated with the radical group Popular Front of India (PFI). 105 out of 130 girls were converted not for faith but fake love¹²⁴.

Victims of love jihad are not restricted to Hindus alone. According to the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council, by October 2009 up to 4,500 Christian girls in Kerala had been targeted. Hindu Janajagruti Samiti claimed that 30,000 girls had been converted in Karnataka alone^{125,126}. In 2005, a pamphlet was found being distributed to Muslim young men in Luton, UK, reported on by journalist Clive Gresswell¹²⁷:

“.... We call upon our fellow youth to come and join us in our mission -universal and global Islam. This task is getting easier by the day as the Sikh and hindu [?] girls are not taught (as is done in Islam) much about their religion at all. They

have a westernized upbringing and the school college and university campus is the ideal place for our youth to carry out their duties easily in this way. ...It is easy to take the Sikh girls out on a date as they generally like a good drink and from these gradually they can be brought into Islam. This is not a hard job at all as the Kafir women they like Moslems. Hardly surprising as we are attractive and intelligent compared with Kafirs. This is common sense and everybody knows. Otherwise why would Indian films have so many Moslem actors. There is not a single Hindu or Sikh actor in Pakistani films. We need more funds desperately to carry on our job and we need volunteers from amongst the youth specially. Come and join us this weekend and every weekend – we will be in an area near you.”

The Supreme Court has taken cognizance of the matter and an NIA investigation has been ordered into coerced and systematic conversion into Islam^{128,129}. Love jihad is often accompanied by what is known as rape jihad. Criminals exist in every community, and it is not at all suggested that rapists only come from one community. However abduction and rape for the purposes of religious conversion is what makes rape jihad distinct. Such systematic religion-motivated abuse is now being recorded from Egypt to Pakistan^{130, 131}.

In November 2017, IndiaFacts was able to obtain a copy of an FIR relating to rape jihad through their lawyer¹³². The FIR is newsworthy because it exposes what we believe is a fairly typical sequence in Rape Jihad. This is as follows:

- Victim is befriended. [Sometimes a (female) friend who is a collaborator or a (previously blackmailed) victim may be used for the introduction.]
- When there is trust, victim is convinced to come to a private place, usually by bunking school or some other instance where they would fear parental punishment.
- Perpetrator rapes victim using physical violence or threat of force.
- Pictures are taken to create shame.
- Victim is blackmailed using pictures and shame, leading to repeated rapes.
- At some point victim is told she must convert to Islam. [Here additional threats, acid throwing etc, were used.]
- Other friends or community members of the perpetrators are sometimes facilitators in this.
- Most often the victim succumbs. It is rarer for the victim to gather courage to tell her parents or the authorities.

According to Intelligence reports, members of banned Islamist organization Popular Front of India (PFI), which was found to have ties with ISIS, have been marrying the tribal

women and girls of backward areas of Jharkhand. The aim is to use marriage as tool to gain control over tribal people's land, also known as "Land Jihad". More than one thousand cases of PFI members marrying tribal women has come to light¹³³.

A list of some of the recorded love jihad by the members of ISIS-affiliated terrorist organization PFI is given below¹³⁴:

- Resident of Anjana village of Muffasil Station Area of Pakur, Kabir Haq married Lavli Tudu. FIR registered against Kabir Haq in the city police station.
- Resident of Littipara of Pakur, Aazad Ansari married Sunita Marandi. Sunita is presently the Mukhiya of Kamagheti Panchayat and taking benefits of Schedule Tribe reservation.
- Fakre Aalam of Littipara of Pakur district has married Tinu Soren.
- Latiful Ansari of Bhawanipur of Pakur district married Hiranpur resident Chandmuni Marandi.
- Rahim Ansari of Mohanpur has married Hiranpur resident Sonoti Hansda.
- Abdul Ansari of Rahaspur of Pakur district has married Bogoy Karmkar.
- Aazad Ansari of Hiranpur married Sunita Marandi of Hinranpur.

- Shahabuddin Sheikh of Maheshpur married Mala Kora.
- Mohammad Maoulvi of Durgapur has married Manika Hembrom.

Jamil Sheikh of Kumarpur has married to Jogadih resident Waha Murmu.

In the next section we have documented 100 instances of love jihad, religious violence against Hindu women and rapes across India. It is to be noted that these numbers are perhaps a tiny fraction of the real number of such incidents, due to severe under-reporting of such cases in mainstream media.

2017-2018	Documented Cases
Love Jihad, Violence against Women and Rape	100

Love Jihad is also accelerated in India by discriminatory laws allowing Muslim men to have four wives, while others, even traditionally polygamous communities, are prohibited by law to do so.

4.1.2 Incident Reports

In January 2017, a 20 year old undertrial, Sohail Sharif Khan, brutally assaulted three women constables, inside a police van parked outside the Andheri magistrate court. Sohail

Sharif Khan, had been arrested by the Meghwadi police in a robbery case and was subsequently remanded in judicial custody and was lodged at the Arthur Road jail¹³⁵.

A 12 year old girl from Jehanabad, Bihar was gang-raped by the principal of Kako Secondary School Aju Ahmed and three teachers — Atul Rahman, Abdul Bari and Md Shakaut, when she was alone in the school building¹³⁶. The girl was mentally unsound and did not study in the school. She would accompany her mother, who was a Physical Education teacher in the school, as there was no one to take care of her at home¹³⁷.

A 21-year-old JNU student who was studying second year BA (Honours) was allegedly raped by two Afghan nationals in south Delhi's Green Park area as per police reports. The accused Twaab Ahmad alias Saleem, 27, and Sulaiman Ahmadi, 31, were Afghan nationals living in India on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) card.¹³⁸

Ashu Parihar (Ginni), a Yoga teacher from Delhi faced multiple rape & death threats, and police complaints across the country for allegedly posting a poem on Dhulagarh riots on social media, which was deemed

“blasphemous” by certain members of the Muslim community¹³⁹.

M Durga Devi, a woman constable was subjected to molestation and assault on 23 Jan by a mob which set fire to Ice House police station in Chennai under the cover of Jallikattu protests. Many in the mob touched her inappropriately and kept hurling stones.¹⁴⁰ Ice House police is opposite Ice House Masjid which is located on Quaid-e-Millath road, and radical Islamist socio-political outfit TNTJ (Tamil Nadu Towheed Jamath) is known to be active in the area.

In February 2017, 30-year-old Muhammad Shafi, was arrested for sexually assaulting more than 30 Hindu women in Kerala after deceiving them by posing as a Dubai-based Hindu NRI surgeon Satish Raghavan. He is also accused of stealing more than Rs. 50 lakh from the women he trapped, exploited and blackmailed using photographs taken¹⁴¹.

In March 2017, in an incident which sent shockwaves through Assam, 8 armed Bangladeshi infiltrators entered illegally into Indian land at Jaarapata in Karimganj and raped a woman and her two daughters. The intruders reportedly announced that they would make this Assam village into a “Sharia Village”. This gruesome crime has acted as a

trigger for exodus of around 40 Hindu families¹⁴².

In April 2017, in a case of gruesome violence in Meerut, UP, a gang first killed a young woman Anushka and then killed her mother Sumanlata by shooting her. The suspects have been identified as Shoaib, Najish and Javed.¹⁴³

In Aligarh, Wasim Akram, son of Rahish Khan, was living in a rented house with his sister Huma, and pretended to be Hindus with names Basant and Rekha. He entrapped the Hindu landlord's underage daughter in a web of fake love and eloped with her. Later, Wasim threatened the girl's family members over phone. He was eventually caught by Bajrang Dal leaders and handed over to the police¹⁴⁴.

In a case of love jihad, a 19-year-old (some reports say he is 22) man named Yusuf (resident of Sohi village, Pahasu Police Station area, Bulandshahr district of West UP) kidnapped an 18-year-old Hindu girl, a resident of village Fazalpur, also in the Pahasu area. Ghulam Mohammad (aged 45), a relative of Yusuf, was suspected of being involved in the kidnapping and of knowing the girl's whereabouts. In an altercation of the issue with the girl's parents he suffered

injuries and died on the way to hospital. However the English media was quick to blame Hindu mobs and ignored the case of kidnapping¹⁴⁵.

In May 2017, the Sikar police arrested two people and detained a juvenile delinquent for allegedly gangraping two minor girls. Another accused is absconding, the police said. The officials added that the girls were forced to regularly meet the accused till their families came to know about it. Police said that the accused have been identified as Roshan Khan, Shakeel and Saddam.¹⁴⁶

In Rampur area of Uttar Pradesh, a group of 14 males molested 2 Hindu girls even while they pleaded to let them go. The prime accused is one Shah Nawaz, who filmed the incident and put it online. He was arrested along with Fazil, Bhoora, Qasim and a 16-year-old minor. Other accused are Farman, Jahan-e-Alam, Saddam and others, all residents of Kuva Kheda village of Rampur¹⁴⁷.

An 18-year-old Hindu woman died nearly three weeks after she eloped with a married Muslim man from Hussainganj who had three kids, while the police said she died as a result of severe infection (septicaemia) caused due to excessive consumption of

some medicines, her family has alleged foul play.¹⁴⁸

Twenty two year-old Ibrahim posing as ‘Siva Idiot’ on Facebook tricked a 13-year-old schoolgirl in Tamil Nadu to elope with him. He went on to rape her in a friend’s motel¹⁴⁹.

In June 2017, a 58-year-old school teacher of Changjurai Ilashi Deuri Primary School near Jamunamukh in Nagaon district, Assam was raped and killed while on her way to school on 31 May¹⁵⁰. At least three persons were involved in the crime and two arrests have been made thus far by Nagaon police – Moinul Hoque and Salimuddin¹⁵¹.

A Hindu girl, who married in South Gujarat town Vapi, filed a complaint against her Muslim husband and in-laws. According to complainant, her husband, father-in-law, mother-in-law and other relatives of Imran used to force her not only to change her faith but also put pressure to eat meat and fish which she never had in entire life¹⁵².

A woman who was a resident of the village Ismailpur was harassed and molested by some Muslim youths. A scuffle broke out between the Muslim gang and local residents. Zeeshan, Hussain, Rehan, Rahees, Ahmed, Sabir, Zahid and Babu were accused of

molestation and assault – police has filed a case against them¹⁵³.

In July 2017, a Muslim man was arrested for assaulting and grievously injuring two tribal women who objected to his slaughtering a cow in Biswanath district of Assam. Police said a group of non-Muslims, including the two tribal women, came to Ali’s house and told him to stop slicing the animal. Enraged, Ali allegedly charged at the women with his machete and injured two women, identified as Bodheswari Goswami, 40, and Bhanti Mallick, 42¹⁵⁴. However, in their minimal report of this brutal crime, *Hindustan Times* manages to peddle their anti-Hindu agenda. The HT article devotes just 205 words out of total 403 towards reporting the murderous attack on two women, and 198 words (almost 50%) are spent on talking about cow vigilantes, NDA, BJP etc¹⁵⁵.

A 9th standard Hindu girl who was a resident of Kaladhungi police station area was kidnapped by a Government school teacher Mobin Khan in Kamaluaganja near Haldwani town, Uttarakhand. Bajrang Dal workers rescued the girl and handed over the accused to the police¹⁵⁶.

The Kerala High Court has declared the marriage of a woman as ‘null and void’ in a

case that has seen the bride's father claiming that his daughter was converted to Islam at the behest of the Islamic State.¹⁵⁷

A 19-year-old domestic help in East Delhi was raped by her neighbour, Shahid, who offered her a lift in his car. 2 other men, also neighbours of the girl, were involved in this crime. Police registered a case of gangrape under relevant sections of the IPC at Madhu Vihar police station¹⁵⁸.

Harassing her for the last six months, a 22-year-old stalker, Nanhe Khan, alias Adil stabbed a 21-year-old aspiring air hostess, Riya Gautam, ten times near her house in full public view in East Delhi's Mansarovar Park area outside the Peer Wali Gali of Ram Nagar. She later died of her severe injuries. The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras.¹⁵⁹

Seven tourists from Hyderabad and Delhi were roughed up and three of their women companions were allegedly molested by a group of cattle smugglers in the Rayagada district of Odisha on July 14. They were attacked after they reportedly protested the beating and torture of the animals by the traffickers. Of the seven tourists that included friends and their families, three were women. Three were from Hyderabad and four from

Delhi and were on a sightseeing tour of Odisha¹⁶⁰.

A 13-year-old girl who was allegedly abducted from Delhi returned home and was found to be three weeks pregnant. During the investigation a Nikahnama of the missing girl and Iddu Khan was found. During raid at Etah on July 3, one of witness to the Nikahnama, Buddhu Khan was held¹⁶¹.

Kerala police arrested Ahmed Nabeel, 24, and his mother Ramla, 66, of Chennamangallur a detailed probe into allegations by the Hindu wife of Ahmed Nabeel that her husband and mother-in-law were physical and mental torturing her for refusing to accede to their wish to embrace Islam¹⁶².

A 15 year old girl repeatedly raped by her neighbour Abdul Gaffar (51) gave premature birth to a child in a school toilet in north-west Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar on Thursday. Gaffar a native of Bihar later admitted to his crime¹⁶³.

In August 2017, a 13-year-old girl was lured out of her house by a neighbour while her father was away working in the fields on 25th July. The neighbour along with his friend Zubair, son of Aziz, then dragged the girl into a nearby house and gang-raped her. The girl's

father, resident of Thana Dehat near Kairana in West UP, got the case registered with police who raided the houses of the accused on Tuesday and arrested Zubair¹⁶⁴.

A Muslim man, Bapi Hussain pretended to be a Hindu Bapi Mondal and entrapped a Hindu girl Likha Stradhar from Coochbehar in West Bengal into a love affair. Later she found out that the boy was actually Muslim. She went missing and her body was later discovered in a hotel in Bhutan¹⁶⁵.

In a shocking incident from Puducherry (Pondicherry), 3 Muslim auto drivers out of a total of 15 suspects have been arrested for raping 4 minor girls¹⁶⁶. According to the report, which appeared in the Tamil daily “Dinamalar”, the 4 minor girls were raped by the 3 auto drivers and 12 others after locking them inside a house¹⁶⁷. When the complaint was received by the department of women and child development, the 4 girls were rescued with the help of Odiyansalai police.

A teacher of Model High School identified as Faizuddin Laskar, in the small town of Katlicherra in Hailakandi district, Assam posted photos with a student in obscene poses. A local channel, DY-365, reported the incident and said that Laskar is a “serial

offender”. Despite complaints, no action was taken by the police.¹⁶⁸

Police arrested two youth who tried to rape a mother and daughter duo who were on their way back home. The perpetrators had dragged the two into a park near Gayathripuram main road, but had fled the spot as locals came to the rescue of the victims. The accused are Suhail (27) and Aqmal (25), both residents of Gayathripuram. It is said that a 40-year-old lady was returning home on Tuesday evening along with her 18-year-old daughter when the accused started following the two and passed lewd comments at them¹⁶⁹.

A 20 year old nursing student working in a medical centre was raped by a Muslim colleague, Asif and filmed by someone else in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh. The victim’s family was pressurized to bury the case. On refusal, the victim was fired from her job because of political pressure¹⁷⁰.

An 18 year old girl, named Rakhi Saha, a 12th grade student in Mathura BSS High School committed suicide on 2nd August in Dharmutola area of Manmad Manikchak Thana, Malda, West Bengal. The family blamed her tuition teacher, Sheikh Imran, for

this extreme step as he had been pressuring her to marry him¹⁷¹.

In September 2017, a 16-year-old Hindu girl in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district accused four Muslim men of gang-raping her for 10 days, trying to force her to eat meat and pressuring her to convert. The four Muslim youths, who were known to her abducted her at gun point, took her to different places and repeatedly raped her, forced her to eat meat and tried to convert her to Islam¹⁷².

In Bharaich town of UP after Hindus protested against repeated sexual harassment of schoolgirls and other women by 7 Muslims in Salar Ganj locality. Locals have accused Irfan, Sharib, Aamir, Fardeen, Sajid, Nihal, Ubaid of often performing obscene acts and harassing school-going girls and other women in the area. If anyone opposed them, they would threaten physical harm¹⁷³.

A Muslim man named Hussain Ali faked himself as a Hindu named Raja Shukla and married a Hindu girl by fraud. The man is a resident of Kushinagar (village Kurmauta), Uttar Pradesh. In UP the girl discovered that he was Muslim. She was raped, and was forced to abort. A procedure was forcefully done on her to prevent future children. Hussain Ali used to torture her / cut her with blade frequently and also beat her up¹⁷⁴.

In September 2017, a 15 year old Hindu minor girl was kidnapped by 3 Muslim men from Shamli town in Western UP and held captive in Panipat in Haryana where she was gang-raped by the Muslim men for 4 days. Later the assailants left her in an unconscious state near her hometown. One of the accused have been identified as Rehan, a resident of Jhinhana¹⁷⁵.

A Hindu female school teacher, a resident of Sonapur in Kamrup district in Assam, complained to the police that that she was being forced by two of her senior colleagues to eat beef and convert to Islam. One of them, a Muslim man, harassed her and asked her to marry him continuously. She stopped going to the school for quite some time now due to fear and mental pressure¹⁷⁶.

A 12 year old girl, student of standard VII was gang-raped by a group of 3 Muslim men, Sheikh Amin, Rashid Naskar and Salim Naskara. The girl was alone in her house when the incident occurred. The 3 accused Muslim men already have a list of pending theft and other criminal charges against them¹⁷⁷.

Mirza Rafiqul Haque, a Kolkata based doctor, murdered Chayanika Kumari (30), his girlfriend for refusing to convert to Islam and marry him. He then stuffed the body into a

suitcase and left it at the Tata Nagar railway station, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand¹⁷⁸.

An 18-year-old girl student was physically abused and sexually harassed by a Muslim student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Shahnawaz Khan (29) a second year Bachelor of Arts (Honours) when the girl refused his advances¹⁷⁹.

In a shocking incident, a 13 year old Hindu girl in Bankura's Lalbandh area was raped and killed in front of her 10-year-old brother by Muslim youth Abdul Rauf Khan (19)¹⁸⁰.

A Haridwar girl was trapped in a love affair by a married Muslim man Ubaid ur Rehman (alias Kabir) from Muzaffarnagar who pretended to be a Hindu. She was sexually exploited for 2 years with a promise for marriage. Later when the girl discovered that he was married and a Muslim, she was beaten, poisoned and left to die in an unconscious state near Hanuman chowk¹⁸¹.

Auto rickshaw driver Mohammed Irfan (29) from UP, and father of 4 (2 daughters), and 2 others gang raped a 21-year-old woman, and left her near a jungle near Sector 42, Chandigarh¹⁸².

A 14-year old disabled girl was held hostage and raped by her neighbour, Haider, in a

colony in Kharkhauda police station area Meerut, UP¹⁸³.

A gang of Muslim youth in Niwai in Tonk region of Rajasthan were charged under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act for sexually exploiting minor Hindu girls, and blackmailing them with obscene mobile clips¹⁸⁴.

A Muslim man who pretended to be a Hindu called Bittu, ensnared a Ghaziabad girl into marriage and then tried to force her into converting to Islam by physically assaulting her. Later when the girl escaped, came back to her parents and was getting ready for re-marriage, the Muslim man shared the previous photos and then blackmailed her¹⁸⁵.

A college-going girl from Birbhum, West Bengal was photographed nude by a Muslim man one Sheikh Hafizul, who threatened to upload the photos on the internet. She was then repeatedly raped and later set herself on fire. Suffering 85% burn she succumbed to her injuries and died¹⁸⁶.

In a clear case of Love Jihad a college going Hindu girl from Mangolpuri area Delhi, was befriended by a Muslim youth Imraan who pretended to be a Hindu called Sonu. Using deceit he locked the girl, raped her and forced her into marriage and conversion and also

poured acid on her hand to remove an “OM” tattoo¹⁸⁷.

Badre Alam (25), Md Ansar (18) and a minor youth, molested a 15-year-old in College Square-Cooltala area in central Kolkata. The three Muslim youths were apprehended charged under sections 12 and 17 of the stringent POCSO Act and IPC sections 354 (molestation), 354A (sexual harassment) and 114 (abettor present)¹⁸⁸.

Farukh Mondal, a Muslim youth of Usthi, South 24-Parganas, West Bengal, uploaded few morphed photographs of a Class IX student of the same locality on a social networking site. Unable to bear the humiliation, the girl committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling¹⁸⁹.

According to a report in Dainik Jagran, in a clear case of Love Jihad, a 22 year old Hindu girl Kiran Kumari (22), daughter of Pardeshi Karmali from Bhurkunda in district Ramgarh, Jharkhand eloped with Aadil Ansari, son of Asgar Ali. She was pressurized to convert to Islam by her husband’s family. On refusing to convert, her husband, in laws and others, gang-raped her, slit her throat and dumped her body into the Damodar River which was found in 6th November¹⁹⁰.

Jasmi Ismail, a Muslim girl hailing from Thekkumbhagom in Kollam district, Kerala

has claimed that her life is in danger after she got married with a Hindu boy which led to the couple getting death threats¹⁹¹.

In December 2017, an 8-year old Hindu minor girl belonging to a daily wage-labourer family from Pune’s Kondhwa area, was repeatedly gang raped by Muslim group, the oldest of whom was 19-year-old Muslim youth Mustafa Abdul Rajaq Mujawar. The shocking incident was revealed when the girl developed rashes on her private parts and fell ill repeatedly¹⁹².

In January 2018, a Muslim impostor named Shadab eloped with an adolescent girl of Baghpat, UP by pretending to be a Hindu named Siddhant Choudhary and a BJP worker. A case has been lodged against Shadab (son of Shekhawat) from Loni, his cousin Shoaib (son of Gaffar) from Harchandpur and Aditya from Sirsana. It is suspected that the accused may have ISIS links¹⁹³.

In Sambhal, UP an 8th standard girl was abducted and raped for 6 days by her Muslim dance teacher who had had assumed a fake Hindu identity. The accused Azad Hussain had changed his name to Azad Bhardwaj. The accused dance teacher abducted the girl by making false promises of making her a ‘TV star’¹⁹⁴.

The case of a minor 14-year-old Hindu girl being abducted by one Raja (aka Asif) and tortured for over 4 years came to light from Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh. Despite being already married, Asif forcibly married the girl after converting her to Islam and changing her name to Ayesha. He even poured acid on her hand to remove an OM tattoo¹⁹⁵.

24-year-old Tina Koley (only daughter of a poor farmer Sambhucharan Koley) of Ghoshpur, Polba Police Station area, Hooghly district, West Bengal was molested by one Sheikh Hasem Ali who beat her with an iron rod, before looting her ornaments and money¹⁹⁶.

In February 2018 in Bidar in Karnataka, a 19-year-old college student Puja was raped and killed by her neighbour Shamsuddin for repeatedly spurning his advances. Shamsuddin lured Puja, a second-year BA student, to a forest near Khanapur in Kosam village of Bhalk taluk, sexually assaulted and murdered her by slitting the throat. He then threw her body in the forest¹⁹⁷.

A Mumbai High Court Lawyer and daughter of a retired Army colonel was abducted and raped for 1 week Bijnor, UP in an attempt to force her to accept Islam and marry her Muslim abductor, Faisal. Apart from being

repeatedly raped, she was mentally tortured and pressurised to convert to Islam. She was forced to wear a burqa¹⁹⁸.

A 16-year-old 10th standard student was lured by her boyfriend ‘Sonu’ (aka Salman) on pretext of meeting his parents for marriage, then held captive in a Delhi flat and gang-raped by the boyfriend and 3 others for 2 days. She was thrashed and even her private parts were injured. Police arrested two accused – Salman aka Sonu (21), and Imran (22)¹⁹⁹.

A group of Hindu women Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan on their way to perform Chak Puja, a pre-marriage ritual, were molested & assaulted by a group of Muslims who allegedly objected to music being played as the procession was crossing a mosque²⁰⁰.

In March 2018, in a Tamil reality TV show featuring a Muslim actor Jamshad Cethirakath, who goes by the stage name Arya, hunting for a wife, the anchor asked prospective Hindu brides if they would convert to Islam. Colors TV faced a lot of opposition for airing such a biased show openly promoting Love Jihad and challenging India’s secular ideals²⁰¹.

A 12th grade girl from Kaliachak in Malda district of West Bengal, who had eloped with a Muslim man only to get trapped in

prostitution, managed to trick her abductor and return home. The accused Rahman Momin has been charged with woman trafficking²⁰².

In April 2018, a woman from a village in Moradabad UP has accused her husband Firasat, whom she married after converting to Islam, of pushing her into prostitution after forcefully taking her to Kerala. She somehow managed to escape from his clutches and returned to her home in UP²⁰³.

30-year-old Neetu Sharma was stabbed at least a dozen times by a man named Anwar who owed her Rs 5 lakh she had lent him for investment. Police officers believe the duo was in a relationship²⁰⁴.

A B.Tech student from Sheesh Mahal area of Haldwani was abducted and forcibly converted by Uttarakhand Congress Leader Mehak Khan's son Danish. Police finally managed to recover the abducted girl and Danish Khan from his maternal aunt Shauzia's house in Delhi²⁰⁵.

A 24-year old man, Wasim Taj Mohammad Pathan, brutally murdered his wife, Mahima Mahadeo Vitole (20), in full public view in Gajanan Nagar in Mankapur police jurisdiction of Nagpur.²⁰⁶

In May 2018 in Vellore, a 23-year-old MBA student Shabheer was arrested for attempting to murder a woman who refused to convert to Islam and marry him without her parents' consent²⁰⁷.

A woman working in a dairy business in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand was raped by her boss Asif Iqbal who also threatened to kill her daughter and upload the woman's obscene photos on Facebook if she told anyone. Iqbal also put pressure on the woman to convert to Islam and eat beef²⁰⁸.

A 21-year-old nurse from Delhi was raped by one Shakeel under pretext of marriage. He also made an obscene video of the woman after drugging her, and started blackmailing her on the basis of that video and threatened to throw acid on her and kill her²⁰⁹.

Arshad Ali from UP, was sentenced by A special POCSO (Prevention of Child Sexual Offence) court in Uttarakhand for 12 years in jail for first abducting and raping a minor girl (17) and then forcefully converting her to Islam and marrying her. The incident took place in 2016²¹⁰.

A woman from Bhurkunda, district Ramgarh, Jharkhand, discovered that her Muslim husband hid his real identity and pretended to be a Hindu to trap her in a love relationship and marry her. 12 years after the marriage, he

sold off his wife to his maternal uncle living in Nagpur. The maternal uncle raped the woman several times after threatening to kill her²¹¹.

A Hindu woman from Bareilly, UP found out that her husband had assumed a fake Hindu identity with the name ‘Devender’ to trap her in a relationship and married her in a temple as per Hindu rites. Later she found out that he was actually Dilshad, a Muslim man from Jadhampur, Bareilly. Dilshad threatened and blackmailed her into staying and also sold off their baby girl for Rs 50,000²¹².

Cab driver Mohammed Ghulam Rabbani (22) was arrested by Delhi police for murdering his girlfriend Nandini (22) when she threatened to expose his criminal activities. Rabbani had befriended Nandini by introducing himself as Neeraj Jha²¹³.

Sheikh Rafiqul hailing from Bardhaman district in West Bengal posted a nude photo of a 10th grader Hindu girl on social media. He befriended the girl after introducing himself as Indranil Mukherjee. Rafiqul brought her to his relative’s house at Birbhum district under the pretence of outing. The girl was kept captive there for two months and physically assaulted. She was drugged and her nude photos were captured day after day by Sheikh Rafiqul²¹⁴.

In June 2018, a shocking incident of love jihad and rape jihad came to light in Rampur, UP. A Hindu girl pursuing a degree course in Moradabad was first befriended by a Muslim youth, Sarfaraz Hussain, pretending to be Raj Bishnoi. He raped the girl and later had a “nikah” with her. Her in-laws started torturing the girl. They put pressure on her to convert, and physically assaulted her. One day Hussain’s father & brother-in-law got some maulvi to the house, and all 3 of them proceeded to gang-rape her. Police has registered a case against Sarfaraz Hussain and his family, including his father Izhar Hussain, mother Shakila, brother Zafar Hussain and 7 others²¹⁵.

A 25-year-old banana seller Abdul Samad from Secunderabad in Telangana stabbed an 18-year-old girl under the jaw for refusing to go out with him. An attempted murder case was registered against the perpetrator²¹⁶.

Sajid Ali Ansari (26), an unemployed engineer strangled his wife, Juhi, to death. The couple’s children were sleeping in the room when Ansari killed her. Then along with his 2 brothers Ishteyaque and Hasmat disfigured her face and chopped her body into pieces for disposal²¹⁷.

In July 2018, a girl named Subhalagna Chakraborty in West Bengal, was shot dead

by a man named Mohammed Sultan Ali. Her parents were also beaten by iron rods by the accused while trying to save her during the altercation. Sultan has been arrested by police and parents have said that the accused hid his real name and identity initially²¹⁸.

In August 2018, a 55-year-old man, Jalaluddin Khan, burnt alive his live-in partner Sangita Devre (40), her daughter Pritee Shendge (19), and nine-month-old grand-daughter Siddhi at the woman's residence in Kalika Nagar area of Nashik. Jalaluddin Khan, who is married & was on the run, has been traced and arrested by Nashik Police from Aligarh in UP²¹⁹.

5 Muslim youth – Wajid, Shahid, Javed, Shabbar, Hasan –lured and abducted a 15-year-old class 10 student in UP. The parents of the girl have alleged that their daughter has been illegally and forcefully converted to Islam and married to a Muslim youth²²⁰.

In September 2018, a 27-year-old engineer was held captive and sexually assaulted for two-and-a-half months by Andheri resident Sayyed Amir Hussain. He invited her to his apartment on June 15 to celebrate the festival of Bakra-Eid, and sedated the woman by offering her a sweet dish laced with drugs. Then he raped her and shot nude photos and videos. Hussain physically and mentally

tortured the woman to change her religion – forcing her to watch videos of controversial Islamic evangelists and beating her if she did not follow the verses. The accused also tonsured the victim's head after she refused to marry him²²¹.

A minor girl from Yamunanagar district of Haryana studying in Class 10 was lured away by her Muslim boyfriend along with two of his accomplices. They took her to Kail village where she was raped three times. The three accused have been caught and charged with rape, kidnapping and sections of the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act²²².

In a case of social media initiated love jihad, a 24 year old woman from Jaipur, Rajasthan befriended a Muslim man masquerading as a Hindu man Ishant. They got into relationship. When she became aware of actual religion and identity of the man, she tried to break the relationship but he threatened to defame her by posting her private pictures on Facebook. The man forced the woman's sister to convert to Islam and get married to his younger brother. He also to force her to get into physical relationship with his friend²²³.

A woman from New Delhi's Chhatarpur Extension area met a man named Adil Hassan Khan through a social media app called Vigo.

Adil has been accused of raping the girl many times on false promise of marrying her and cheated her of Rs 14 lakhs. Adil has also been found to be cheating and duping many girls across India using coercion and blackmail. The accused works in Jammu and Kashmir Police²²⁴.

A girl named Jyoti Kumari changed her religion to marry her lover Mohsin in Ranchi, Jharkhand. After marriage, she was asked by her in-laws to consume beef, to which she denied. Due to this, her husband left her and fled²²⁵.

A girl from Jalandhar, Punjab became friends with a man called Reshu Malik a resident of Bhainsori Sharif, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh whom she met on Facebook. She fell in love with him. She met him in Punjab where he raped her. He also spiked her cold drink that made her unconscious. She was then gang-raped by 4 other men in his presence. He, then forcefully took her to a Maulana to get her religion converted to Islam. He also forced her to eat beef. The man then raped her many times during past few years on pretext of marrying her²²⁶.

In October 2018, a 24-year-old woman from Alwar in Rajasthan reported that a Muslim man, Bilal Ahmed who revealed his religious identity and posed as a Hindu man Vikas,

befriended and raped her. The victim said she married the same man after the accused convinced her for marriage. When she got pregnant, he beat her up and fled somewhere²²⁷.

A 20-year-old model Mansi Dixit, hailing from Kota, Rajasthan, was murdered and her body stuffed in a travel bag by her 19-year-old boyfriend Muzzamil Sayyed. The two were in Sayyed's Millat Nagar, Andheri (W), flat when they had an argument, and he hit her on the head with a stool and strangled her to death. He then stuffed her body into a travel bag and called a cab. He left the travel bag with Mansi's dead body in a bush near the Mindspace office complex, Malad (W)²²⁸.

A 32-year-old woman in UP's Bijnore district, Rashmi alias Reshma, was earlier married to a doctor Anurag Jha. She fell in love with their driver Shahnawaaz and married the latter in 2016. Shahnawaaz had sold off her jewellery and when she demanded her ornaments back, he and his father Ali Nawaaz killed the woman. Police arrested the accused driver, Shahnawaaz, and his father, Ali Nawaaz, for the crime²²⁹.

Sunita, a Hindu woman, accepted Islam and became Shaheen Khan to marry Salman Khan, a stationery dealer in Aminabad, Uttar Pradesh. The couple has a daughter from the

marriage and the victim is pregnant with another child. She has been abandoned by her husband who has been accused of hitting her and marrying two other women²³⁰.

A Muslim man Wahid Khan from Indore, Madhya Pradesh raped a Hindu girl and made her obscene video. He blackmailed her using that video. He then forced her to accept Islam and married her forcefully. After marriage, he used to assault her. After suffering for long she complained to the police in November 2018²³¹.

In Uttarakhand, a minor 8-year-old Hindu girl was first forced to watch porn and then raped by 5 minor Muslim boys aged 9 to 14. The girl was lured with a chocolate to the house of one of the accused as the boys planned the rape. The incident occurred in a village in Sahaspur police station area, around 25 km from Dehradun²³².

An 18-year-old Hindu girl working in a Delhi beauty parlour was drugged and raped by a Muslim neighbour, who then blackmailed her with the rape video to convert to Islam and marry him. The accused raped her multiple

times. He also forced the girl to sign on some blank papers²³³.

In November 2018, a case of harassment was registered by Thane police against a 39-year-old Muslim doctor following a complaint by his ex-Hindu wife who converted to Islam before marrying. The 37-year-old victim alleged that her husband & in-laws harassed her for money and other issues, and also forced her & their 2 children to live along with a second wife that he married²³⁴.

In Hasanganj police station area of Lucknow, a 22-year-old girl was brutally molested & thrashed by two Muslim brothers – Ehsan Ansari and Azad Ansari. When the girl's brother came to her aid, he was also brutally thrashed by the 2 accused and their accomplices²³⁵.

Mysuru Rural Police arrested three men – Imran Pasha, Rehamath Shariff and Mubarak – for sexually harassing a girl atop Chamundi Hill besides snatching away her mobile phone and a gold chain after threatening her²³⁶.

4.2 Islamic Attacks & Communal Clashes

4.2.1 Key Findings

111 people were killed and 2,384 others were injured in 822 communal incidents in the country in 2017. Union Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir said that the highest number of communal incidents in 2017 were reported in Uttar Pradesh where 44 people were killed and 542 others were injured in 195 communal incidents²³⁷.

In response to questions asked by two MPs in Parliament, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, said that the number of communal incidents in West Bengal alone had increased from 16 in 2014 to 24 between January-October 2015²³⁸. In fact West Bengal, recorded 27 incidents of violence in 2015 in which five persons died and 84 suffered injuries. The number of incidents almost doubled by 2017 when 58 incidents of violence were recorded, in which nine people lost their lives and 230 were injured²³⁹.

Presented below are 32 documented cases of stone pelting, communal clashes and aggressive mob attacks by Islamic groups in 2017 and 2018. It is to be noted that these are perhaps a fraction of the true numbers of such incidents given the under-reporting in mainstream media whenever Muslim community members are perpetrators.

2017-2018	Documented Cases
Islamic Attacks & Communal Clashes	32

These have been accompanied by deaths, damage to property and business premises of Hindu shop owners. In all these attacks the Muslim community were the aggressors and specifically targeted Hindus, their business establishments and their festivals. In some cases the attacks coincided with festivals like Ram Navami and Ganapati Puja, and also accompanied by chanting of Pakistan Zindabad.

4.2.2 Incident Reports

In January 2017, an violent Muslim mob set fire to a police station in Deoria district of Poorvanchal region in Uttar Pradesh after the

body of a missing Muslim youth was found floating in river Rapti. The mob shouted slogans like “Allah ho Akbar” and “Pakistan

Zindabad” and targeted Hindu police personnel of the police station.²⁴⁰

In February 2017, 65-year-old Singhasan Yadav was stabbed to death in Ghaziabad UP, by neighbourhood Muslim youths. The deceased, Singhasan Yadav, was sleeping when he was attacked and his throat slit²⁴¹.

In April 2017, on the eve of Ram Navami, three Muslim youths identified as Asif Khan, Asif Ali and Mohammed Rehan left abusive messages on the profile page of Bajrang Dal activist Ajit Padhiari.²⁴² A complaint was lodged with the police demanding the arrest of these people. During a subsequent peace committee meeting to diffuse tension, a Muslim mob youths riding nearly hundred bikes rallied in Purana Bazaar area shouting “Pakistan Zindabaad” and other anti-national slogans. This group is reported to have targeted shops owned by Hindu traders in Chandan Bazaar area²⁴³. The main culprit, Asif Ali Khan, happens to be the son of a local BJD leader Asghar Ali Khan.²⁴⁴

During a Ram Navami procession in West Bengal, bombs were hurled at the Hindu group from within Titagarh Bari Masjid despite RAF presence. The event was not covered in the mainstream media²⁴⁵.

A police team that had gone to nab chain-snatchers at the infamous Irani basti in Ambivali, North East Mumbai was attacked by a mob of around 25, mostly women, who also tried to set one policeman on fire by pouring kerosene on him. In the attack, two policemen including a police sub-inspector and one constable were injured after the mob pelted stones on them²⁴⁶.

A series of amateur short videos went viral on social media showing CRPF jawans being heckled, hit and kicked by a Kashmiri Muslim mob in Nashrullahpora, Budgam. Based on that the CRPF lodged a complaint with Jammu and Kashmir Police. The videos show remarkable restraint shown by CRPF personnel, despite highest provocation. Many of the stone pelters were chanting 'Go India, Go Back'.²⁴⁷

In May 2017, a Hindu man Sourav Mondal was beaten up for marrying a Muslim girl from Munshidanga village of Domjur Thana under Howrah district in West Bengal. He had met the girl when she was being attacked by sexual predators and saved her from their clutches. The girl's family could not accept the match her maternal uncle lodged a ‘missing person’ FIR in Domjur Thana²⁴⁸.

In June 2017, a dispute that arose due to the splattering of water on the clothes of a village youth on the way to his afternoon namaz, took the shape of a communal confrontation in Nasirpur village of New Mandi police station, Muzaffarnagar district. Stone pelting and firing were carried out, in which a person Brajpal and his son Aakash suffered injuries. In a critical condition, Aakash was referred to Meerut, but he passed away²⁴⁹.

The Purulia town in south-west West Bengal witnessed clash between two groups over social media posts that hurt religious sentiments. According to local residents, a few persons were injured in the violence. Rapid Action Force [RAF] has been deployed in the area.

“Tension started brewing about a couple of days back when a member of one community allegedly posted a comment on social media hurting the religious sentiments of the other community,” a resident of the area told *The Hindu*.²⁵⁰

In July 2017, a Muslim mob attacked an upscale gated residential society Mahagun Moderne in Noida Sector 78 following rumors of a maid, Zohra Bibi, being held captive after she was caught stealing by her employers. The mob indulged in full-blown rioting with stone pelting and vandalism with

rods on the society where over 2000 families live²⁵¹.

A man identified as Aftab Ahmed tried to open the emergency door of an Air Asia flight from Delhi to Ranchi minutes before landing, endangering the lives of passengers. He also allegedly injured a few passengers and crew members when they attempted to stop him. Ahmed was handed over to local police at Ranchi²⁵².

In August 2017, several vehicles were charred and some shops targeted as clashes broke out between groups of two communities in the sensitive Mandvi area. The rioting broke out near Mandvi crossroads during Ganapati procession²⁵³.

Communal tension broke out in Pauri Garhwal district’s Satpuli town, after a Muslim man was caught sexually assaulting a calf. The man was booked under Section 377 [of the Indian Penal Code] for unnatural sexual offences²⁵⁴.

A 20-year-old youth was allegedly force-fed acid by a group of men after they got into an argument with him at his shop in South-East Delhi’s Sangam Vihar. The police arrested the accused identified as Talib (20) and apprehended a juvenile (15)²⁵⁵.

A Muslim mob of cattle smugglers in Nalasopara (West) in Maharashtra severely beat up two cow protection volunteers belonging to the Bhartiya Gauvansh Rakshan and Samvardhan Parishad. The mob took them to a nearby dargah and tried to strangle them²⁵⁶.

A Ganapati procession was attacked with stones by a Muslim mob in the old city area of Vadodra, Gujarat. The situation soon snowballed into rioting between Muslims and Hindus which left 10 people injured, including two jawans of SRP (State Reserve Police)²⁵⁷.

A rampaging Muslim mob pelted stones and fired upon police after Friday namaz in Jama Masjid at Uparkot area of Aligarh, UP. 8 people including 6 policemen were injured, two of whom are critical. The mob also pelted stones on a temple and tried to loot a bank²⁵⁸.

A 25-year-old man Sajjan Singh was stabbed to death by a group of six Muslims (Saleem, Imran, Aleem, Abid, Samar and a juvenile) after his elbow accidentally brushed against one of them while they were dancing at a restobar at West Gate Mall in West Delhi's Rajouri Garden area on Sunday night. He was stabbed more than six times by the accused and the entire incident was recorded in CCTV cameras inside the mall²⁵⁹.

Communal tension erupted near Vishwanath Mahadev Mandir near Kaliya-Soth dam in Bhopal when a group of Muslims gathered near the temple, erected a tent, proceeded to pray (do namaz), cooked non-vegetarian food and left the remains strewn near the temple²⁶⁰.

Communal clashes erupted in Agra's Soro Katra area in Shahganj over a minor bike accident in which one Shahid's son Asif was accidentally hit by one Mahesh's bike, due to which Mahesh was thrashed up. Later a mob of Muslim men came with guns, rods and wooden sticks (lathis) and smashed up at least 6 shops and molested women coming out of a nearby Hanuman temple²⁶¹.

A dairy shop owner, Anuj Shrotri, was assaulted by a dozen-strong armed gang of Muslims after Anuj and some other shopkeepers objected to obscene remarks by 3 drunk Muslim youth on female passersby²⁶².

Communal tension broke out in Rae Bareilly town, UP after a mobile shop owner Bhole Singh was assaulted by Javed Khan, Usman, Shibbu and Puttan Khan. Police arrested the 4 attackers along with the victim Bhole Singh²⁶³.

In October 2017, a woman, Nandini M (45), a software engineer, was attacked brutally

thrashed by a 100-member Muslim mob for reporting illegal cow slaughter to police and trying to rescue the animals from the slaughterhouse near Tippu Circle in Bengaluru's JP Nagar. The mob shouted pro-Pakistan slogans and pelted stones, concrete block, boulders and glass bottles at her car from all sides. She suffered serious injuries²⁶⁴.

A frenzied Muslim mob viciously attacked Hindus with swords during Muharram procession in Thakurganj in Bihar. The mob resorted to stone-pelting also and destroyed Hindu property. They then stormed into a temple, vandalized temple property and assaulted the Brahmin pujari Muralidhar Sharma and also ransacked his house. Two police personnel were also severely injured.

²⁶⁵

In February 2018, 23-year-old photographer Ankit Saxena's throat was slit in West Delhi's Raghbir Nagar by the father of his Muslim girlfriend (Shehzadi), as part of a planned attack which also included the girl's mother who instigated it, minor brother and maternal uncle²⁶⁶.

In April 2018, police arrested a Muslim man Sameer (s/o Zarif, resident of Hajipura mohalla) and his wife Vaishnavi for plotting

the death of Vaishnavi's father Rakesh Ruhela in Ghaziabad, UP²⁶⁷.

Hindus in various parts of Kerala faced intimidation and violence as a mass hartal (strike) called over social media to protest the Kathua tragedy, soon descended into violence. During this "hartal" Hindu shops, establishments and even temples were targeted systematically. This attack was carried out by workers of the Popular Front of India, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Indian Union Muslim League (a Congress ally). CPM cadre provided tacit support to the anti-Hindu violence through a sustained Hinduphobic social media campaign over the Kathua rape case.²⁶⁸

In June 2018, the owner of an eatery, Sanjay Mondal, was shot dead on Sunday evening in West Bengal for demanding Rs. 190 for a plate of biryani from four customers²⁶⁹. An FIR was lodged against the accused Mohammad Firoz who was arrested. The other accused were Raja, Mogri and Salman.

In September 2018, 28-year-old Neeraj was lynched to death on Tuesday by his neighbour Ali Sher's family after a minor dispute involving Rs 100. The incident occurred in Chakathal village, Atrauli police station area, Aligarh district of West UP²⁷⁰.

In October 2018, Hindus of Dhanpura village in Haridwar district, Uttarakhand sat on hunger strike to protest their harassment by Muslims in the area, and to demand security from the Government. There are reports that around 60 Hindu families have left the village since 1994 due to similar harassment and communal tensions²⁷¹.

A 17-year-old Hindu youth, Ankit Jatav, was stabbed & critically wounded by attackers while he was asleep alongside his father. The boy's father was also attacked when he tried to defend his son. The incident occurred in Maukhas village, Mundali police station area, Meerut district of UP. The victim's father has named Shabir, Sarfaraz and Rashid (sons of

Sukke Khan) and Shabir's wife in his complaint to police²⁷².

In December 2018, Joint teams of NIA, UP Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) & Delhi Police busted an ISIS inspired terror module 'Harkat ul Harb e Islam' which was allegedly planning to carry out multiple terror attacks at crowded places & iconic spots and assassinate important individuals. The module was headed by 29-year-old Mufti Mohammad Suhail, a maulvi in an Amroha mosque. Other team members were 24-year-old Anas Yunus, a civil engineering student of Amity University, Noida and 20-year-old Zubair Malik, a 3rd year DU student²⁷³.

4.3 Attacks on Hindu Festivals and Places of Worship

4.3.1 Key Findings

Attack on Hindu places of worship and festivals has been an important part of alien faiths like Christianity and Islam. Mughal emperor Aurangzeb alone is said to have destroyed anywhere between 5000 to 50,000 temples. Even their users were also wiped out; even his own brother Dara Shikoh was executed for taking an interest in Hindu religion; Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur was beheaded because he objected to Aurangzeb's forced conversions²⁷⁴.

This destruction of temples and desecration of idols continues even today in various parts of the globe and Indian subcontinent including India. For example, in 2016, in a single day at least 17 temples were vandalized at Brahminbaria's Nasirnagar area of Bangladesh by an Islamist mob²⁷⁵. A survey in Pakistan found that after 1990, 95% of Hindu temples have been converted into toy stores, restaurants, government offices and schools²⁷⁶.

In Kashmir alone, 208 Hindu temples have been destroyed in various acts of vandalism

between 1986 and 2006. Kashmiri Pandit claimed that that around 550 temples were damaged during that same period²⁷⁷.

According to data released by the Delhi police, in 2014 206 Hindu temples, 30 Sikh Gurdwaras, 14 Muslim mosques and 3 Churches were robbed in Delhi²⁷⁸. In the 25 year period between 1992 and 2017, at least 1,200 ancient idols from temples in Tamil Nadu have been stolen and smuggled out²⁷⁹.

In the following section, 25 incidents of attacks on Hindu festivals and places of worship across India have been documented. These include temple vandalism, murti desecration and violently disrupting religious processions. These cases obviously represent a tiny fraction of actual number of incidents since a majority of cases do not get reported in the mainstream media.

2017-2018	Documented Cases
Attacks on Hindu festivals and places of worship	25

4.3.2 Incident Reports

In January 2017, several schools across Bengal including a few in Kolkata, were forced to cancel Saraswati Puja festivities fearing reprisals from Islamist groups. This was because Muslims wanted Prophet Muhammad's birthday to be celebrated first. This was allegedly a precondition set by the Rajarhat Imam Council.²⁸⁰

In March 2017, a Hindu temple on the Indian side of the India-Myanmar International Border was attacked on Wednesday. The second largest temple in the Northeast popularly known as Shiva temple was attacked with a powerful remote-controlled bomb.²⁸¹

In April 2017, an area called Khaspura in Shahganj, Agra (Uttar Pradesh) saw a communal clash around 2nd of April over construction of a temple gate. The man who was handling the construction of the temple gate was beaten, pushed around by Muslim community members, because of which he got a serious injury on his head²⁸².

Four Muslim men were arrested for trying to desecrate a temple murti at Kuniyapattur near Coimbatore²⁸³. The accused apparently entered the temple to break the murti but were seen by a local resident Saravanakumar who alerted the localites. The 4 accused were

identified as Ibrahim (33), Muhammad Nishar (27), Abu Qadir (33) and Muhammad Rafiq (31). The police also got hold of the iron rod which was used by the Islamists in their effort to desecrate the murti²⁸⁴.

Police in Suri, Birbhum district of West Bengal resorted to lathi-charge on Hindu Jagran Manch supporters when the latter took out a rally on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti²⁸⁵.

A WhatsApp message allegedly containing objectionable remarks against the prophet of Islam (Muhammad) became the cause of an attack on a Sikh family and vandalism of a Gurudwara in Rehad village, Bijnore district, UP. According to the Dainik Jagran report²⁸⁶:

The WhatsApp message was received by Shanu, son of Ghulam Nabi, on Saturday evening. He informed other Muslims in the village about the alleged inflammatory message, and soon a large mob descended on the house of Swarn Singh, accusing his son of spreading the message. The mob vandalized the house and beat up family members – Swarn Singh, his brother Sukhdev Singh, neighbours Baldev Singh and Dalip Singh suffered injuries in the attack.

Two incidents of temple desecration on the same day by unidentified persons were reported from Aligarh district of Western UP in April 2017. In a 350 year old Shiva temple

in village Jawar, Iglas area, murtis of Parvati and Shri Ganesh were broken. In village Lodha of the same district, the Shivaling and Maatarani murti in Lehra temple were desecrated.²⁸⁷

In July 2017, At least seven pilgrims returning from the remote Himalayan shrine of Amarnath were shot dead and several wounded when terrorists fired on their bus as well as a security vehicle in Anantnag district of Kashmir²⁸⁸.

An incident of temple vandalism and desecration has been reported from Banaso temple in Mahamaya complex of Vishnugarh block, in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. The temple murti was also destroyed, and the area is tense with protesters demanding immediate arrest of the accused 5 Muslim youth²⁸⁹.

In July 2017, a temple priest Vedram, his wife Prahaladi & five others were brutally attacked by Muslim miscreants headed by two Alim and Raka in in the temple premises in village Beesru in Mewat, Haryana²⁹⁰.

During the Basirhat Riot in West Bengal, a Hindu temple in Aamtala, Dandirhat was vandalized by a Muslim mob and this was captured on video²⁹¹.

In August 2017, a newly dug well in the Kollidam River to get pure water for the

rituals of the Ranganathaswamy Temple was desecrated by miscreants, who threw a beheaded hen inside the well making it impure & unusable. Later the water had to be drained out and the well secured with grill gates²⁹².

A Krishna Dol festival procession was attacked with stones by Muslims in UP's Barabanki district. 6 Hindus were injured in the attack. 4 Muslim men Alam, Sahnoor, Rauf, and Munnu were arrested²⁹³.

In October 2017, a centuries-old ritual held at its Ezhai Katha Amman temple in Vellalur, about 30 km from Madurai town Tamil Nadu was attacked vehemently by secularists and self-proclaimed human rights activists on account of being “primitive” and “exploitative”. The community in question are strong nationalists and have a strong sense of their agrarian identity which does not sit well with elite English speaking “activists”. As part of one of the ritual, young girls aged between 6 and 10, stay for 15 days in the temple. This was immediately picked up by the secularist-progressive brigade and dubbed regressive and exploitative. An inquiry by Madurai District Collector K Veera Raghava Rao not only found no evidence of abuse, but also learnt that parents had willingly sent their children²⁹⁴.

A group of Muslim boys entered Deoband's ancient Hanuman Temple during Kirtan, used abusive language against devotees, threw away Shri Krishna vigrah and broke the microphone²⁹⁵.

In January 2018, Saraswati Puja was scrapped from the Holiday schedule for January 2018 by Primary School Board of West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district. The order was signed by chairman Muhammad Zahid Alam Arzu & Secretary Aminul Ahsan²⁹⁶.

6 Hindu devotees were injured in stone pelting by a Muslim mob during a Hindu religious procession for murti visarjan (immersion). The incident occurred in Bekobar (South) panchayat, Koderma district, Jharkhand²⁹⁷.

In March 2018, a Hindu religious procession was attacked by 45 Muslim extremists in Barabanki, UP. The Shiv Baraat procession was being taken to Barabanki's renowned Lodheshwar Mahadev Temple when it was attacked with bamboo sticks and sharp weapons. Many Hindus including women were injured²⁹⁸.

There were several cases of large-scale, organized Islamist violence against Ram Navami celebrations across West Bengal, Bihar and other states. In Raniganj in West

Bengal, there was severe violence which left one person dead, a DSP's Arindam Dutta Chowdhury hand chopped off, crude bombs thrown and shops belonging to Hindus burnt down²⁹⁹.

The rioting spread to Asansol in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman, adjacent to Jharkhand. Hindus from the area started moving out to "safer locations" and blamed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for inaction. One of the migrants said-"We are moving to safer locations. **We are taking our families to the places where the population of Muslims is quite less.**"³⁰⁰

In August 2018, 2 sadhus were brutally stabbed to death and another injured inside a temple premises in the Bidhuna area of Auraiya district of Uttar Pradesh. The murdered sadhus were brutally tortured and their bodies mutilated. The 3 sadhus used to oppose cow slaughter in the area, and it is believed that this led to the attack on them³⁰¹.

In September 2018, UP police revealed that Ex-councillor Sabir Ali from Etah district, his son Nadeem and their gang of 6 others – Salman, Ifran, Yaseen, Mustkeem, Naushad, Afsar – were behind six murders, including that of two sadhus (Hindu ascetics/monks) in Aligarh & nearby areas³⁰².

Hindus in Srinivaspuri, South Delhi, were first threatened by some Muslim residents not to organise Ganesh Utsav in the locality. When Hindus went ahead with their

celebrations after taking due police clearance, they were attacked and stones were pelted on them by religious fanatics³⁰³.

4.4 Political Violence and Killing of Hindus

4.4.1 Key Findings

There have been numerous cases of political violence and killings of Hindus across India. Most of these cases go unreported in mainstream media. In West Bengal alone, 331 people have been injured (44 of them hospitalized) in 139 incidents of violence related to panchayat polls in the state, and 1 person is missing, according to data supplied by BJP's National Joint General Secretary³⁰⁴.

40 cases of targeted politically motivated attacks on Hindus have been presented here for 2017 and 2018. RSS workers, Bajrang

Dal activists and BJP members were attacked in politically motivated attacks in various parts of India like West Bengal, Punjab (by suspected Khalistani supporters), Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and others. Many such Hinduphobic political attacks go unreported in mainstream media, and what is presented is perhaps a very small fraction of the actual number of such incidents.

2017-2018	Documented Cases
Political Violence and Killing of Hindus	40

4.4.2 Incident Reports

In January 2017, in the aftermath of the arrest of TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay by CBI in connection with the Rose Valley chit fund scam, the BJP Kolkata office was attacked by TMC's student wing.³⁰⁵

In another related incident, TMC workers brutally thrashed an aged BJP woman leader Krishna Bhattacharya inside her house³⁰⁶. TMC workers also tried to barge into BJP MP Babul Supriyo's house in Kolkata where his

parents are staying but the police were able to control this situation³⁰⁷.

In Kerala's Malappuram district, a 10-month-old infant child of a BJP member Suresh, who was sitting on his lap on the driver's seat of their car, was pulled out and flung to the road by three CPI(M) workers, and then viciously attacked him.³⁰⁸

In another incident of political attack on Hindus, a BJP worker Radhakrishnan, 55,

who had suffered grievous burns after political rivals from CPI (M) set fire to his house on December 28, succumbed to his injuries at Jubilee Mission Medical College in Thrissur where he had been admitted with 60% burns on his body. His brother Kannan and his wife Vimala, who had also suffered serious burn injuries in the attack. All the three victims were local leaders of the BJP.³⁰⁹

Controversial Congress leader Ahmed Patel, a close aide of Sonia Gandhi, publicly exhorted people to get Prime Minister Modi to an intersection and mete out punishment. This statement was made in the context of demonetization of Indian currency a few months back in November 2016³¹⁰

Amit Sharma, 35, district publicity manager of Hindu organisation Sri Hindu Takht, near Jagraon Bridge in Ludhiana, Punjab was shot by two motorcycle-borne men. Sharma had been receiving regular threats from Khalistani militants through phone.³¹¹

Three notorious Christian extremist and Maoist terror groups in Assam and Tripura, the People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), the Kamatapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) and the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) on Monday delivered a final ultimatum to Hindi

and Bengali speaking Hindus to quit Karbi-Longri, Kamatapur and Tripura by March 31 or face the "gravest of the grave" situations. They were opposed to any attempts to rehabilitate the Hindu Bangladeshis in Assam.³¹²

In January 19th, a BJP worker identified as Ezhuthan Santhosh (52) was hacked to death at Andallur near Dharmadom in Kannur. Santhosh was the former Mukhya Shikshak of the RSS unit in Andallur and he was also the booth president of the BJP there.³¹³

On January 27th, CPM activists barged into Neyyattinkara General Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram district, and hacked BJP workers recovering there from an earlier attack³¹⁴. Crude bombs were hurled at RSS offices in Naruvamoodu and Mattannur, Kannur district³¹⁵.

On 24th Jan, RSS activist Sudhir's studio at Chakkarakkal, Kannur was burned by a petrol bomb thrown through the back window³¹⁶.

On 30th Jan, RSS Payyannur Thaluk Karyavah Sajith was hacked by CPM workers who barged into an RSS meeting. He was admitted in Pariyaram Medical College with severe injuries at head³¹⁷. On 31st,

police lathicharged BJP leaders in Kerala during the Kerala Law Academy protest in which many activists were badly hurt³¹⁸.

In February 2017, Kerala BJP Vice President Dr PP Vava was injured in a student protest at the Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram, and has lost his eye. A march by BJP activists from Peroorkada to the law college prompted police to use water cannons, tear gas shelling and a cane charge³¹⁹.

A BJP worker identified as 20-year-old Nirmal of Nettierry was allegedly hacked to death by CPM activists during a festival at Kokkulangara temple near Thrissur.³²⁰

Students Federation of India (SFI) members allegedly thrashed two Dalit and three OBC students on University of Hyderabad (UoH) campus. MA Student Karthik Mulkala blamed caste prejudices for the “unprovoked attack”, saying that they were attacked for their political views as they belong to Dalit and OBC communities³²¹.

In March 2017, RSS member and BJP Kannur mandalam vice president Sushil Kumar got injured when he was stabbed by an unidentified gang that came on motorbikes near Kannur Town. According to police, the

BJP leader was attacked around 9 pm, near Olacherikkavu in Kannur Town by a gang of more than six members.³²²

In Meerut, Western UP, a mob of SP workers descended on a police chowki, to try and forcefully free Nazar Mohammed, a youth who had been arrested by police for assaulting and molesting a girl student earlier that day. SP MLA Ghulam Mohammed tried to pressurize the police on behalf of the attackers³²³.

BJP councillor and Dalit leader Srinivas Prasad, popularly known as Kithaganahalli Vasu, was stabbed to death with sharp weapons by unidentified assailants at Anekal in Bengaluru rural district.³²⁴

In eastern Uttar Pradesh district Balia, Samajwadi Party workers burnt down the houses of villagers to avenge their defeat to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Most of the villagers had voted for the BJP because of which the SP workers got enraged and resorted to violence to take revenge. The SP workers beat up the villagers badly and left several people seriously injured³²⁵.

27-year-old Ayan Pattanayak, a poor shopkeeper and the only son of his aged & ailing parents Nandigram, East Midnapore

district, was brutally assaulted by West Bengal police for daring to stand up for his right to freely practise his religion. The issue is related to a Harinam Sankirtan (congregational devotional singing) program and a dispute with Muslims who refused to dismantle an illegal structure to allow the program to proceed³²⁶.

A bomb was hurled late at the RSS office in Kallachi near Nadapura, Kozhikode district in Kerala. Three RSS workers were injured in the attack and were shifted to Kozhikode's Government Medical College.³²⁷

A 35-year-old Bajrang Dal member was found dead on the banks of a beach in Mangalore town. Police said Suvarna was found on the banks of an estuary on Friday afternoon, a day after he went missing while attending a wedding³²⁸.

In May 2017, RSS worker Choorakad Biju was hacked to death, allegedly by CPI(M) activists, at Payyanur town in Kerala CM Pinari Vijayan's home district Kannur. Police said Biju and his friend Pandaravalappil Rajesh were travelling on a motorcycle when they were knocked down by an Innova car. A gang alighted from the car and hacked him on the neck³²⁹. The police have registered a case against seven CPM workers³³⁰.

A newly inaugurated RSS karyalay / sevalay (office) in village Perunthatil of was vandalized by CPM cadres³³¹. This particular village has seen RSS office ransacked 17 times, 2 swayamsevaks murdered and 3 incapacitated³³².

In June 2017, Bajrang Dal activists were beaten by Muslim radicals in Chistia district of Hazaribagh. About eight people were injured in this attack which occurred when Bajrang Dal workers were returning in a bus from a program while shouting slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram'.³³³

Sharath Madivala, an RSS worker and an owner of a laundry in in the coastal district of Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka, died at A J Hospital after a brutal attack by unidentified assailants on July 4³³⁴. He later died from his wounds.

In August 2017, an RSS worker Vipin was brutally murdered. Islamists are suspected to be behind the murder. Vipin, 30, a native of Tirur, was attacked near Pulinchode in Tirur around 7 am. He was rushed to the government hospital in Tirur where he was declared dead³³⁵.

On 15th October 2017, an RSS worker, Nidesh (28) was hacked, allegedly by CPI(M) workers, at Muzhuppilangad near

Thalassery in the politically volatile Kannur district of Kerala. According to the police, the condition of Nidesh, who suffered injuries on his hands and legs was critical and he had been shifted to the Kozhikode Medical College hospital³³⁶.

On 17th October, RSS leader Ravinder Gosai was shot dead by unidentified men in Ludhiana's Kailash Nagar in the morning when returning home from RSS Shakha. Three Hindu leaders have been murdered in Punjab this year by unidentified gun-men³³⁷.

Four unidentified assailants shot dead Vipina Sharma leader of Hindu outfit Hindu Sangarash Sena in broad day light on 30th October. The incident which was recorded on CCTV shows two turbaned persons shooting Sharma and investigations are on whether the assailants are associated with any hardline/ Khalistani group³³⁸.

In November 2017, Anand (23) an RSS worker was hacked to death, by CPM workers at Nenmeni in the temple town of Guruvayur in Kerala³³⁹.

A 50-year-old Dalit BJP worker, Satheesan, son of Chakkanchath Kunjayyappan of Kalamuri, was hacked to death by CPI (M) activists at Kaipamangalam in Kerala's Thrissur district³⁴⁰.

In January 2018, an ABVP activist, 24-year-old Shyam Prasad, was brutally hacked to death on Friday in Kommeri, Kozhikode district, Kerala. Police has arrested 4 SDPI activists – Muhammed, Minikkol Salim, Neeveli Ameer, and Shahim – for the murder³⁴¹.

In February 2018, BJP worker Santosh was stabbed to death in Bengaluru by Waseem, son of Congress block leader Khader, due to an argument over putting up banners of BJP's just concluded Parivarthana Rally³⁴².

In March 2018, an ABVP activist Ajith was attacked and hit on the head with stone by SFI student activists, as Kollam east circle inspector and about 50 colleagues looked on. The police did not register a case even though the violence occurred inside the police station³⁴³.

In April 2018, a Dalit candidate of BJP, Ajit Murmu (35), was hacked to death allegedly in an attack by TMC goons outside the BDO office in Bankura, while a BJP District Secretary was thrashed and stabbed inside the District Magistrate's office in Birbhum³⁴⁴.

During this poll violence, TMC goons were seen brutally thrashing BJP workers, including women, who were trying to help their party candidates file their nominations for upcoming Panchayat elections³⁴⁵. There

were numerous such incidents which came to light through social media, but was ignored by the mainstream media outlets.

In May 2018, TMC activist Bappa Sheikh was arrested for raping the 6-month pregnant relative of a BJP candidate for the West Bengal Panchayat polls. The BJP candidate's house was attacked, looted and her 23-year-old pregnant sister-in-law raped by TMC activists in Nadia district early on Sunday after she refused to withdraw her nomination³⁴⁶. The accused also stole gold and cash from the victim's house.

A 20-year old Dalit BJP worker Trilochan Mahato was found hanging from a tree in

West Bengal's Purulia district on Wednesday morning, with a note scribbled on his white color T-shirt that said "This is what you deserve for working for BJP"³⁴⁷.

Two days after 20-year-old Trilochan Mahato was found hanging from a tree in Purulia's Balarampur development block, another BJP activist Dulal Kumar (30) was hanged from a high-tension electrical transmission tower in Dabha village in the same area. Kumar had also received death threats from local Trinamool Congress activists for his work during the Panchayat elections in which BJP emerged as the foremost contender to the ruling TMC³⁴⁸.

4.5 Religious Persecution

4.5.1 Key Findings

32 cases of blatant religious persecution and discriminations against Hindus have been presented in this section to illustrate rampant religious persecution of Hindus in India. Numerous people have been injured and affected due to state actions, police crackdowns and discriminatory policies.

A March 2018 report states that poor Hindu families living in Muslim-majority Panchli Buzurg village in Meerut, UP have been forced to flee their village due to harassment by some locals and apathy of local police³⁴⁹.

Some of the category of discriminatory actions include:

- Discrimination against Hindu students in Christian schools
- Forced conversion to Islam
- Attack on cow protection squads
- Open Hinduphobia in popular websites
- Illegal construction of mosques in temple lands
- Attack on activists who oppose overly loud azaan

2017-2018	Documented Cases
Religious Persecution	32

4.5.2 Incident Reports

In January 2017, a government aided Christian school St. Joseph school in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu suspended two male Hindu students for applying vibhuti (sacred ash) on forehead³⁵⁰.

In March 2017, a man named Abhishek Jain was forcibly converted from Jainism to Islam by a gang of Muslims in Bikaner, Rajasthan. He was beaten, kidnapped, issued death

threats and made to sign documents which enabled the accused gang to change his religion on paper. All this coercion and torture is said to have happened with the full knowledge of the local Municipal Councillor, Mohammad Tahir³⁵¹.

In Panipat district of Haryana, a jeep carrying a cow stuffed into it, fired 25 rounds at gau rakshaks (Gau Raksha Dal members) who

were trying to stop the jeep, and eight gau rakshaks got injured. One of them was critical, and shifted to a bigger hospital³⁵².

In April 2017, West Bengal police unleashed a brutal crackdown on devotees taking part in Hanuman Jayanti celebrations in Suri, Birbhum³⁵³.

In Khaspura in Shahganj, Agra (Uttar Pradesh) a communal clash broke out over construction of a temple gate. The man who was handling the construction of the temple gate was beaten, pushed around by Muslim community members, and received serious head injuries. This is a temple dedicated to lord Shiva and lord Hanuman. Six months prior, some miscreants stole away the temple idols³⁵⁴.

A Christian website in Malayalam, Manova online has been peddling hate speech by calling Hindu Devatas as Satans. This site specifically targeted the Hindu Deva Ayyappa. The website claims that Mahabharata and Ramayana were copied from Greeks, and Hindus copied their 'demonic' deities after the Greeks themselves abandoned them³⁵⁵.

Bollywood singer Sonu Nigam tweeted his protest against the practice of using

loudspeakers for Azaan. Terming it as 'forced religiousness,' he tweeted:

“God bless everyone. I'm not a Muslim and I have to be woken up by the Azaan in the morning. When will this forced religiousness end in India”³⁵⁶

His tweets created controversy and he was attacked on social media and print media for speaking his mind against what he referred to as “gundagardi”. A Maulvi in West Bengal issued a fatwa, offering Rs 10 lakh as reward to anyone who shaved the singer's head³⁵⁷.

Within a few days, two men were stabbed in Gopalpura, Madhya Pradesh, after one of them took to Facebook in support of Sonu Nigam's comments on the use of loudspeakers for Azaan³⁵⁸.

In April 2017, it was reported that Muslims in Thrikkandiyur village, coming under Tirur Municipality in Malappuram district, were forcefully and illegally constructing a mosque on land belonging to Annara Ayyappan temple. Bharat Kshethra Bhumi SamrakshanaVedhi (KBSV), a registered trust in Kerala, filed a petition to have the mosque construction stopped³⁵⁹.

In a case of clear Hinduphobia, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials asked contestants from several countries for a super model crown who were visiting the Taj Mahal to remove scarves bearing Hindu religious symbols and words like Jai Shri Ram. Avinash Rana, general secretary, Hindu Jagran Manch (Agra), asked: “Why don’t they stop people wearing skull caps from entering?”³⁶⁰

Nadim Malik Kandhlavi of Kandhla in Shamli district was accused of repeatedly abusing Hindu gods and goddesses with derogatory terms and for the use of extreme profanity on social media targeting Hindu deities on Facebook. Bajrang Dal Shamli, Uttar Pradesh filed an FIR against the abuser for online hate speech against Hinduism.³⁶¹

Amit Bhardwaj, a resident of Madhavpuram in Meerut’s Brahmapuri police station area, married a Muslim woman who converted to Hinduism voluntarily around 10 years back. They have 2 children. However Amit was threatened by one Maulana Riyazuddin from Kharkhuada area of Meerut to either convert to Islam or leave his wife. On refusal Maulana Riyazuddin had him drugged and forcibly circumcised. Amit and his family have been threatened that they will be killed if they don’t convert.³⁶²

In May 2017, in a clear case of anti-Hinduism Student Federation of India (SFI) in Kerala organized a beef festival across Kerala apparently as a protest against central government's rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals³⁶³. In the Ernakulam district it was inaugurated by Kadakampally Surendran, the Devaswom minister who is in control of many Kerala temples³⁶⁴.

In July 2017, a 14-year-old boy was found murdered in Delhi, with his mother alleging that he was held hostage and lynched by some Muslim friends. The victim, identified as Yogesh Kumar, was found dead under mysterious circumstances near New Delhi Railway Station last month³⁶⁵.

In Gurugram (Gurgaon), Haryana, a gaushala has been demolished in South City 1 area by HUDA (Haryana Urban Development Authority) and cows taken forcefully and violently, despite a stay order by Chandigarh HC. HUDA officials destroyed the place and brutally took away the few remaining cows, without informing where the cows were being taken to. This modest gaushala maintained mostly abandoned and old cows, and the care taker family mainly survived on community donations, while taking care of these cows³⁶⁶.

Two Muslim teachers accused of forcing the only two Hindu students of a government-run residential school in Mewat to offer namaz have been suspended while another has been transferred. Action was taken against the trio after parents of the Hindu students complained to Sharma on July 22. “Other students in the school have said the three teachers would ask the two Hindu students to abide by Islamic norms and offer namaz. The teachers also often asked the two Hindu students to convert to Islam,” teacher in-charge Naveen Shakti said³⁶⁷.

Artist Suchitra Krishnamoorthi was abused online and threatened with sexual violence by Muslim trolls for her comments protesting against use of loudspeakers for Islamic call to prayer (azaan) before dawn. She shared a graphic containing some of the abuse she had received where she has been abused as randi (prostitute), BJP agent, and ‘harami ke aulaad’ (bastard)³⁶⁸.

The Karnataka State government withdrew financial grant, given through the Kollur Mookambika Temple, to two government-aided private schools managed by a Hindu trust, the Sri Rama Vidyakendra Trust. The trust was led by RSS leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat in Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada district³⁶⁹. However, it decided to

divert funds from the Kateel Durga Parameshwari Temple to 5 Christian missionary schools³⁷⁰.

In September 2017, a 31 year old Hindu man and his mother in NTR colony in Kuppam of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh were brutally attacked by eight members of a Muslim family. The man Upendra was hacked to death while his mother suffered grave injuries when steaming hot contents of a vessel were poured on her. Upendra was in a romantic relationship with a Muslim girl, and her relatives Ahmathulla, alias Basha, Hamanullah, 31, Rahamathullah, 28, Azad, 25, and four others, carried out this dastardly attack³⁷¹.

A 57 year old Hindu labourer Manhar Variya was viciously stabbed to death by his Muslim neighbor Nazir Pathan (35), an autorickshaw driver, at VUDA quarters near Rang Vatika in Bapod, Vadodra. Nazir, who lived in another block came and started demanding money from Manhar for Tazia. When Variya refused to give money, arguments ensued and Nazir then stabbed Variya leading to heavy blood loss, and escaped the scene of the crime³⁷².

On 16th October, a senior Border Security Force (BSF) officer, deputy commandant

Deepak Mondal of the 145th battalion, was brutally and viciously attacked by a group of cattle smugglers in Belardeppa border post in the Sipahijala district of Tripura near Bangladesh border³⁷³.

Mohd Syed Khan, Assistant commissioner (Revenue) refused to listen to and insulted the National Anthem in Government Model Higher Secondary School (Boys). When students protested they were thrashed by the local police³⁷⁴.

In a tweet in November 2017, Rohit Sardana had asked why the word ‘Sexy’ was prefixed only to Hindu goddesses like Durga, Radha etc. and not to Ayesha, Fatima or Mary.

अभिव्यक्ति की आज़ादी- फ़िल्मों के नाम सेक्सी दुर्गा, सेक्सी राधा रखने में ही है क्या? क्या आपने कभी सेक्सी फ़ातिमा, सेक्सी आएशा या सेक्सी मेरी जैसे नाम सुने हैं फ़िल्मों के?³⁷⁵

Why do film makers only use names like Sexy Radha & sexy Durga? Enlighten me has Sexy ever been prefixed with names like Mary, Fathima, Ayesha...³⁷⁶

He immediately started receiving threats from ordinary Muslims death threats were issued against him, his wife and children via phone, WhatsApp, twitter etc³⁷⁷. Imam and Khateeb of Jama Masjid Saleempur, Maulana Husain Ahmed Qasmisaid Muslims would tolerate “blasphemy” against Holy

personalities of Islam and secretary of Madrasa Rahe-Najat Qari Anwar Jamai strongly warned if government did not arrest Rohit, government itself would be responsible for Muslims retaliation³⁷⁸.

A 40-year-old man in East Delhi’s Mandawali area, Kanti Prasad, was killed by Mehboob Ali who used a screw driver as his murder weapon³⁷⁹.

In February 2018, Hindu Samhati’s Tapan Ghosh and 3 other HS activists – Rishikesh Roy, Tapan Shil and Preetam Pal – that same night under non-bailable IPC Sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 326 (causing grievous hurt). This happened during a public voluntary ghar wapasi (re-conversion) of a Muslim family³⁸⁰.

In March 2018, a teacher from Assam, Ribul Phulmali committed suicide after a Muslim gang blackmailed him using obscene videos of his wife³⁸¹.

In April 2018, Cluny Matriculation School near Aarani in Tamil Nadu publicly humiliated and punished two Hindu girls for wearing Vibhuti, Chandan and flowers³⁸².

In July 2018, encroachment of a Hindu cremation ground by some Muslims of village Jahidpur, Meerut, UP has led to tensions between both communities. The

encroachment has been going on since 2011 and has resulted in several confrontations between both communities in the village, which has almost equal population of Hindus and Muslims³⁸³.

A Hindu man, Kaushik Das, and his Muslim wife, Sabrina Khatun, got married. But the woman's family started threatening them. They approached West Bengal police for security. But instead of providing them security, West Bengal Police suggested the couple to leave the state and go to either Gujarat, Gaya in Bihar or Kashi in Uttar Pradesh. The incident occurred in Jangipara police station area under Hooghly district of West Bengal³⁸⁴.

In September 2018, two Hindu students died in police firing during protests over

recruitment of Urdu teachers in a West Bengal school. The incident occurred in Daribhit High School located in Islampur, Uttar (North) Dinajpur district when an arbitrary notice by the school Head Master for recruitment of Urdu teachers was being protested by students and local Hindus as there is not a single student of Urdu language in the school³⁸⁵.

There was communal tension in Malda's Koligram after the administration gave permission for a Muharram procession to pass through the village, breaking a longstanding consensus that neither Muslims nor Hindus will be allowed to hold festival processions in the village. Hindus are still not allowed to hold Durga Puja in the village³⁸⁶.

4.6 Dalit Persecution by Muslims

4.6.1 Key Findings

Dalits and Muslims officially make up 16% and 14% of Indian population. Together they are 30% of Indian population and hence in the last few decades there has been a push by political forces to create the myth of “Dalit Muslim Unity” for electoral benefits. This agenda for consolidation is pushed under the guise of dealing against perceived “institutionalized discrimination” against these two communities by Hindu community³⁸⁷. Similar rhetoric was also used during partition of India on religious lines in 1947, swaying some Dalit Hindus to side with Muslims. However, as the well-known case of Jogendra Nath Mandal, one of the central and leading Founding Fathers of modern state of Pakistan, Dalits were severely persecuted in Islamic States carved out of India³⁸⁸.

Despite the political rhetoric, the ground situation is quite different and a large number of cases of Dalit persecution by Muslims are heard about. However, since the perpetrators are the Muslim community, a miniscule percentage of these incidents make it to the mainstream or even regional media.

In 2018, a chilling incident came to light from a Dalit locality in Uttar Pradesh. Around 1,500 members of the Dalit community in Gautam Nagar locality of Naugawan Sadat town, Amroha district have been living under a threat of forced conversion to Islam and increasing Islamization of the area. For example, shops in the neighbourhood slowly changed their address to “Islam Nagar” from the pre-Independence name of “Gautam Nagar”. **“We are left with no other option but to migrate to another locality or convert,”** said 70-year-old Dalit resident Pitam.

Below we have presented a 25 cases of hate crimes where Dalits were severely persecuted by Muslims due to religious bigotry.

2017-2018	Documented Cases
Dalit Persecution by Muslims	25

In many cases entire Dalit villages have been affected because of persecution by Muslim communities. These 25 cases of course represent perhaps a very small part of the actual number of such incidents, since

majority of such incidents go unreported in mainstream media.

4.6.2 Incident Reports

In April 2017, fighting broke out between Muslims and Dalit community on the occasion of Shobhayatra' of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in Muslim-majority Sadak Dudhli village (police station Janakpur) adjacent to Saharanpur city in Western UP. Stone pelting & firing by Muslims on the Shobha Yatra caused it to be stopped, and the other side too resorted to violence in retaliation, and there were numerous injuries as a result³⁸⁹.

In May 2017, a Dalit woman Ruma Mondal, mother of 3 daughters and resident of Charavidya, South 24 Parganas district, who was missing from 3 May was found dead 2 days later. Her family suspects she was murdered by Akbar Ali Gazi, the husband of a local panchayat official & TMC member, as she was resisting his son's advances towards her minor daughter³⁹⁰.

In June 2017, a shocking incident of honour killing was reported the village Gundakanala in Muddebihal taluk in Vijayapura district of Karnataka. According to police, a 21-year-old pregnant Muslim woman, identified as Banu Begum, was allegedly burnt alive by her family members for marrying a Dalit

youth Sayabanna Sharanappa Konnur from Valimiki caste³⁹¹.

A Dalit was tied to a tree and beaten up in a village in Vijayapura by a fellow villager on the suspicion that the victim's son had eloped with his daughter. Mareppa Harijan, a Dalit from Haligondakanal village of Sindgi taluk, in his complaint to the police, said Mehboobsab is the one who assaulted him. Mehboobsab and his other son Allabaksha allegedly beat up Mareppa and when Ramesh, the second son of Mareppa, came to the rescue, he too was allegedly beaten up³⁹².

A young man from Dalit community in Mewat (Nuh), Haryana, was punished by a joint panchayat for sharing a facebook post against the prophet of another religion. The man, named Daulatram, is from Prajapat community. He was punished with 11 shoe beatings in front of panchayat and fined Rs. 21,000. Also, he cannot enter his village Nagina for a period of 3 months as punishment. The panchayat had a representation of members from all communities, though the entire Mewat district is a Muslim majority area. To keep

the punishment ‘just’, an elderly member of the same Prajapat community was asked to beat Daulatram with a shoe 11 times, and the fine of Rs. 21,000 is said to be deposited in the temple.^{393, 394, 395}

In August 2017, a Dalit girl who had gone to a sewing training centre (silai prashikshan kendra) near her home on Friday was kidnapped by a Muslim youth Firoz s/o Siddique. The incident occurred in village Chitpur Muri Patti, Rajesultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar district, Eastern UP. It is believed that the abduction of Sunita was planned by Firoz and his family members³⁹⁶.

In October 2017, an 18-year old Dalit girl was raped by one Imran Khan in Susner town of Agar-Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh. A female relative of the perpetrator recorded the entire incident on her mobile phone and subsequently put the video on online platforms to shame the girl when she refused to be blackmailed into submitting to sexual exploitation again³⁹⁷.

In January 2018, a Dalit girl was abducted by a Muslim named Junaid living in Delhi. After being forcibly converted to Islam, she was married to Junaid who had held her captive for more than 2 months before she was rescued³⁹⁸.

Sumitra, a Dalit girl and resident of Pathanpura Mohalla in Najibabad, was abused by one Shakeel (son of Sharif Ahmed) who used derogatory caste slurs. When Sumitra objected, Shakeel manhandled her. Later Shakeel and 6 others attacked Sumitra’s home and pelted stones and broke the window panes. A police complaint was filed³⁹⁹.

In February 2018, a 27-year-old Dalit man was mercilessly hacked to death in UP’s Hathras by a group of Muslim men including one Aalam. His body was found outside the local mosque⁴⁰⁰.

A tribal youth, Prakash Bheel (18), was brutally attacked inside his home by a group of 5 Muslims near Jalchakki Chaumukha Mahadev Mandir of Kankroli, Rajsamand district, Rajasthan. Police registered a case against the named attackers – Shahrukh, Shahil, Safa, Chhapri and Jakir Hussain have been named as accused in the attack⁴⁰¹.

Bina Gautam, a married Dalit lady from Kanshiram Colony of Kharkhauda Thana in Meerut, Western UP, was attacked inside her house by 3 Muslim brothers, Azad, Fareed and Leel, when she refused to convert to Islam and marry one of the brothers⁴⁰².

Two women and a minor girl of a Hindu Dalit family were assaulted by a gang of Muslim

men including Shakil, Shahid, Mohammad Ali and others in UP's Pratapgarh. The Muslim men attempted to rape 2 women and a minor girl of the house, and tore off their clothes. When the rape attempt failed, the perpetrators opened fire and attacked the women with axes & sticks⁴⁰³.

A 2-year old tribal man, Madhu, was lynched by a mob of locals, led by K Hussain and Abdul Kareem, over the accusation of stealing 1 kg of rice. The shocking incident happened in Kadukumanna village in Attappady, near Palakkad in Kerala. Ubaid TU, an aide of Mannarkkad MLA N Shamsuddin (Muslim League) also took a selfie with the man while he was being beaten to death⁴⁰⁴.

An 8-month-old baby girl was hacked by a Muslim man, Ayub, at Manjeri in Malappuram during a rape attempt on the girl's mother, a Banjara Dalit⁴⁰⁵.

In March 2018, Hindu women belonging to SC community were stopped from performing Holika puja in the village of Salamba, Nuh district, Haryana on Thursday by some Muslim villagers. The women were assaulted, abused with casteist slurs, and their puja material thrown away⁴⁰⁶.

Gurjar community along with several other Hindu outfits protested in Tonk, Rajasthan

against the increasing frequency of attacks on Hindus in the region. This happened in the context of Gurjar marriage procession had been attacked by stone pelting and sharp weapons which left several people injured⁴⁰⁷. The Gurjars are classified as Other Backward Class (OBC) in some of India's States and UTs; in Jammu and Kashmir and some parts of Himachal Pradesh are categorised as a Scheduled Tribe.

In May 2018, a minor 16 year old Dalit girl was set on fire by a Muslim youth from her village Shafi who had been stalking her for many days and demanding her mobile number. The incident occurred in Fariha village, Nizamabad police station area, Azamgarh district of UP⁴⁰⁸.

A 30-year-old Dalit man, Vidyaram Katheria (s/o Vedram) was battered to death by members of the Muslim family living next to him in Shikohabad, district Firozabad, West UP. A case was lodged against 7 people – 3 brothers Pervez, Rohil, Yusuf (sons of Abdul Hamid) and 4 unnamed persons – for Vidyaram's murder⁴⁰⁹.

One Mamud Sheikh represented himself before 2nd year college student Priya Mondol of Dighirpar area of Falta police station under South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal using a fake Hindu identity – as a mechanic

named Rajesh. Mamud Sheikh alias Rajesh went to Priya's home and proposed to marry Priya to her parents. Her parents rejected the proposal after finding out that he had faked his identity. Later after a quarrel, she secretly left home and met Mamud Sheikh at Diamond Harbour station. Family members of Priya Mondol came to know that Priya ingested poison & was admitted to Diamond Harbour hospital at night. Eventually she expired at midnight⁴¹⁰.

Aslam kidnapped a teenager girl, who belonged to Scheduled caste. He himself as Raju and told the girl that he belonged to the same caste as she does. He, then, trapped the girl in love. He abducted her brought her from Delhi to Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh. Police raided his house and rescued the girl in November 2018⁴¹¹.

In June 2018, a Muslim mob unleashed a savage attack on a Dalit colony in Azamgarh, UP, ostensibly over a minor dispute between children. The incident occurred in Bakhra village in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh with the mob thrashing whoever crossed their path, leaving 10 persons, women & children included, critically injured. They also ransacked many houses and destroyed property⁴¹².

A Dalit couple Bajjan Das and Manju Devi and their two minor children were set afire as they slept in their house in Bihar's Ajamnagar of Katihar district. The two daughters – five-year-old Priti and three-year-old Kiran – died inside the house. Two accused, Abdul Rehman and his wife, were picked up by police after preliminary investigation⁴¹³.

5 IndiaFacts Policy Recommendations

5.1 Eliminate Constitutional Loophole

The fountainhead of anti-Hindu policies, programs and adjudication is article 29 and 30 of India's constitution. These articles must be made inclusive by replacing the word "minorities" with "all citizens".

Current discriminatory articles in the constitution state:

29. Protection of interests of minorities

30. Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions

Recommended inclusive change would instead state:

29. Protection of interests of all citizens

30. Right of all citizens to establish and administer educational institutions

Successive governments and court judgments have misused the constitutional loophole to create an anti-Hindu system. Elimination of the loophole will usher equality and equal treatment. For instance, an inclusive constitution, which treats all citizens equally, will not allow the Supreme Court to adjudicate draconian laws, like Right to Education RTE and confiscation of places of worship, in a discriminatory manner.

Hinduism is an inclusive system with no 'us vs them' religion based classification; Hence, this 'majority vs. minority' classification rooted in Abrahamic worldview is inappropriate for India. The government should do away with discriminatory religion based classification and treat all citizens equally.

5.2 Other Changes

The government should also make following changes. These changes do not even require a constitutional amendment:

1. Repeal or reform draconian laws. For instance, one of the easiest change would be to reform RTE to reduce regulatory burden,

reduce corruption and sharply raise compensations paid to the schools.

2. Stop all government schemes which discriminate on the basis of religious identity on the pretext of "minority" which is tacit funding for conversion out of Hinduism.

Poverty has no religion; hence, assistance, if any, needs to be on the basis of poverty level.

3. Protection for Hindu minorities. Hindus are a minority in 31 territories. Especially when faced with monopolistic monotheisms they often face discrimination and violence in these areas and need special protection. On the other hand, Hindu traditions have naturally protected diversity for thousands of years and no special protections are needed for “minorities” within them.

4. Free Hindu temples.

5. Conversion and proselytization of Children. The government must enact

“Prevention and Prohibition of Child Conversion Act”.

6. The Supreme Court has displayed great respect towards Abrahamic faiths. They must display same respect towards Hinduism and end discriminatory adjudication of conflicting laws.

7. Government must end minority-majority discrimination from all policies, programs and welfare schemes.

8. Protection of popular Hindu festivals and traditions. The Supreme Court should follow the principle of “rarest of rare” in interfering with diverse local customs, which add to the colourful beauty of the Hindu traditions.

5.3 Hindu Charter—A Plea for Equality

A group of around one hundred Hindus, including spiritual leaders, academics, authors, doctors, engineers, journalists, public intellectuals and concerned citizens from all walks of life, across the country, deeply disturbed by the systemic and institutionalized discrimination against the Hindu society, gathered in New Delhi on 22nd of September, 2018 to deliberate on various constitutional, legal and public policy issues affecting the Hindu society.

During the deliberations, it was acknowledged that as the inheritor, custodian and trustee of the Indic civilization based on the ethos of Sanatana Dharma the Indian State has bounden civilizational responsibility to protect, preserve and promote the Indic civilization. A Charter of key Hindu Demands was debated and drafted, to be presented to the Government of India and the public. The Charter demands:

1. End of legal and institutionalised discrimination against Hindus by the Indian

State, which is against the spirit of the equality of citizens irrespective of religious identity. To this effect, the group demands that *Dr Satyapal Singh's Private Member's Bill No. 226 of 2016 pending in Lok Sabha for amending Articles 26 to 30 of the Constitution* should be passed forthwith in the forthcoming Parliament Session, to ensure equal rights to Hindus on par with others in the matters of:

- a. Running educational institutions without undue interference of State;
- b. Removal of Govt control of Hindu temples and places of worship by restoring their management to Hindu society;
- c. Preserving and promoting Hindu heritage and culture;

The group recalled that late Syed Shahabuddin, having understood the problem of the Constitutionally imposed disabilities

on majority Hindus, had introduced a Private Member's Bill No. 36 of 1995 in Lok Sabha to widen the scope of Article 30 of the Constitution by suitable amendment to include all communities and sections of citizens by substituting the word 'minorities' with "all sections of citizens" therein.

2. A large amount of money comes to Indian entities from abroad, a lot of which is from institutions with ties to foreign governments and their agencies. This money often drives the vested interests of these agencies in India and often ends up subverting Indian society and fuelling conflict and separatism. The following official data indicates that irrespective of political colour of the Central Govt and despite best efforts of the present Central Govt to tighten and enforce the law, the quantum of foreign contributions continues to rise leading to ever increasing undue foreign interference in our internal affairs.

Sl No	Year	Amount received under FCRA	Reference
1	2010-11	Rs. 10,865/- Crores	MHA L. No. II/21011/58(974)/2017-FCRA-MU dated 07-11-2017 in reply to RTI application.
2	2011-12	Rs. 11,935/- Crores	
3	2012-13	Rs. 12,614/- Crores	
4	2013-14	Rs. 14,853/- Crores	
5	2014-15	Rs. 15,297/- Crores	
6	2015-16	Rs. 17,765/- Crores	
7	2016-17	Rs. 18,065/- Crores	PIB Press Release dated 1 st June 2018 of MHA

While India rightly refuses foreign aid even in natural disasters not only on grounds of national pride but also because it is capable of generating enough money internally. As there is no free lunch and India is not a beggar Nation, the group urges the Central Government to completely ban all sorts of foreign contributions except those by OCIs in their personal capacity (in recognition of their emotional connect with India) by repealing the existing FCRA and enacting a new Foreign Contributions (Prohibition) Act immediately.

3. In order to protect and preserve the Hindu native cultural and religious traditions, practices and symbols from unwarranted interference not only by the State and its agencies but also from others, the group urges enactment of Freedom of Religion Act by the Central Government immediately.

4. In order to prevent repeat of genocidal religious persecution as suffered by the Kashmiri Hindus, the group demands immediate;

a. Tripartite division of J&K into 3 States of Kashmir, Ladakh and Jammu;

b. Abrogation Article 370 which is the problem of Kashmir, along with repeal of the

Constitution (Application to J&K) Order, 1954 issued there under, so that the changes made to the Constitution with respect to J&K such as the discriminatory Article 35A also get repealed.

5. With about 14 lakh tons of meat/beef exported during 2017-18, India has achieved the shameful distinction of the largest meat/beef exporter in the world, quite contrary to Article 48 of the Constitution. This has not only skyrocketed the prices of meat/beef but has also led to growth of meat/beef mafia. The group urges immediate complete ban on export of all types of meat/beef to lower its prices by increasing its availability in domestic market while reducing the adverse impact on the environment and eliminating social friction and law & order issues.

6. Thousands of temples and sacred places of Hindus are in desecrated, destroyed or ruinous condition. Further, Veda Pathshalas, traditional and folk art forms, literature, dance, music, painting, sculpture, architecture etc. which are our intangible heritage and the vehicles for sustenance and transmission of Sanatana Dharma and our age old culture, are all dying for want of patronage and regular livelihood for their practitioners. Therefore, the group while

reminding the Indian State of its civilizational responsibility, urges the Central Government to immediately establish a Central Public Sector Undertaking to be styled as *Haindava Samskruti Jeernoddhaarana Nigam* (Hindu Culture Restoration Corporation) with an initial seed capital of not less than Rs. 10,000 crores and an annual grant of similar amount for undertaking reconstruction and restoration of all damaged, desecrated, abandoned and dilapidated Hindu temples and sacred places; revival, nurturing, patronising and promotion of Veda Pathasalas, various traditional and folk art forms, dance, music, sculpture, architecture, painting etc.

7. Expediency in granting refuge and citizenship to peoples of Indic faiths fleeing religious persecution from any country. The Central Government introduced in Lok Sabha a Bill in 2016 to amend the Citizenship Act, which having been referred to a Select Committee, is pending. The Bill in its current form suffers certain difficulties including its doubtful constitutional validity. There are also some genuine concerns expressed by certain people of North Eastern States which needs to be addressed. The group therefore urges the Central Government for immediate:

- a. Withdrawal of the pending Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016;
 - b. Amendment of the Constitution by inserting an enabling Article 11-A in the Constitution;
 - c. Thereafter amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 by introducing a new Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in the forthcoming session of the current Parliament itself.
8. The creation of an equal opportunity environment for all Indian languages, ending the institutionalized discrimination that exists today. This will fuel both an economic and cultural renaissance, since a large part of India's population is currently excluded from development and justice due to linguistic discrimination by the State. The Charter as drafted by prominent citizens of India, will include specific demands and policy suggestions to assist the Government and the legislature in ensuring the rights of 800 million Hindus on par with other sections are upheld, as the principles of equality, justice and liberty are essential for the health and vitality of our cherished democracy and for enabling growth of a truly secular and religion-neutral legal, governance and public policy regime and polity as envisaged by Dr.

Ambedkar and other founding fathers of our
Constitution

6 Conclusions

The Hindu Human Rights Report documents a shocking abridgment of religious freedom of Hindus in an unexpected place—the Hindu-majority country of India.

Though Hindus are in a majority, they were ruled by Christian and Muslim minorities for hundreds of years before Indian independence in 1947. Nonetheless, oppressive anti-Hindu laws continue from the colonial period and, in many cases, have become even more discriminatory. Hindus are regularly subjected to religiously-motivated murder, rape and state-mandated discrimination.

The situation is no dissimilar to apartheid era South Africa, where coloured peoples, though in the majority faced a discriminatory regime. Yet, the notion of “protecting minorities” is used to subvert the principle of equality of citizens even when “minorities” were the erstwhile ruling class⁴¹⁴.

Two “minority” religions in India are both former rulers as well as globally dominant

religions. There are 157 Christian majority countries and 49 Muslim majority countries, but only 2 countries have a Hindu majority⁴¹⁵. In that sense, Hindus are a global minority, and a target of aggressive proselytization by the two dominant religions.

India has become a prime target for this, and unfortunately the Indian state, rather than stepping up to protect its Hindu citizens, denies them basic equality under the pretext of “minority rights.” India has always been plural and welcoming of diversity. Discrimination against Hindus and inequality promoted by the state leads to rising social tensions, which are in turn blamed on Hindus “as a majority.”

This strange situation is not sustainable and must change. It is time for India to honour the principle of equality of all citizens, irrespective of religion, and act as a guardian of the ancient Indian culture and civilization, rather than as its enemy.

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