

jem Newsletter

November 2023

From the Director's Desk

As of November 2023, there has been a notable decline in the total number of hate crimes against minorities, including Dalits. Justice and Empowerment of Minorities (JEM) has diligently reported 39 verified cases of hate crimes, encompassing hate speeches. This has provided a momentary sense of relief, but our ultimate goal remains the establishment of a society devoid of hate crimes based on religious or caste identities.

However, the month began with a fresh controversy surrounding Halal Certification, sparked by the Uttar Pradesh government's legal actions in Lucknow against certain entities. These entities were accused of exploiting religious sentiments to boost sales by providing Halal certificates exclusive to customers of a specific religion. Regrettably, a few self-interested TV news channels exacerbated the situation by framing it as a conflict between Hindu and Muslim communities.

What is particularly distressing is the government's response, which seems to justify its clampdown against the implicated companies, rather than

addressing the misinformation being spread about Halal products. Instead of taking action against those who propagate falsehoods and targeting entities like the Jamiat Halal Trust that provide legitimate Halal certificates, the government is pursuing a questionable course.

The political leadership of the country must intervene in this matter. The issue at hand not only has implications for the Indian Gross Domestic Product but also plays a crucial role in ensuring the integrity of products manufactured. In addition, I propose that the government initiate a comprehensive educational campaign to enlighten the public about Halal Certification and Halal Products. It is essential to dispel misconceptions and emphasize that these certifications align with religious values without conflicting with anyone's beliefs. Moreover, strong action should be taken against those disseminating false information about Halal products to safeguard both the industry and communal harmony.

Mahmood Asád Madani
Director, JEM

Hate Crime and Hate Speech Cases, November 2023



On November 1st, according to a report by [Nav Bharat Times](#), an economic boycott targeting Muslim vendors in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, was brought to light. The news outlined that certain Hindutva organizations, including VHP and Bajrang Dal, issued a warning to Muslim youth, urging them not to apply henna on Hindu girls. The organizations also appealed to Hindu girls to visit designated henna camps in various locations in Muzaffarnagar for the application, where VHP and Bajrang Dal members were stationed to verify vendors' AADHAR cards and ensure the absence of Muslim individuals. While the state secretary of UP, Qari Zakir, acknowledged that they do not oppose the appeal made by VHP and Bajrang Dal, he emphasized that such appeals should not be rooted in religious animosity. Zakir stated that the tradition of applying henna on a girl should be observed by a female, irrespective of religious affiliations. Notably, the local police refrained from providing any comments on the matter when approached by the media.

On the 2nd of November, [Hindutvawatch](#) brought attention to

an alarming incident in Betul, Madhya Pradesh, where members of a Cow Vigilante group were reported to have physically assaulted a Muslim truck driver. The attack was allegedly motivated by accusations of the driver transporting cattle. The incident raises concern about the volatile situations arising from vigilantism and underscores the need to address such issues to maintain communal harmony. Authorities in Madhya Pradesh have yet to issue an official statement or comment regarding the reported incident. The incident also adds to the ongoing debates

surrounding cow protection and vigilantism in various parts of the country.

On November 2nd, [Hindutvawatch](#) reported an incident of hate speech and communal incitement originating from Gada, Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh. A video shared by Hindutvawatch on X featured the notorious monk Dharendra Shastri and former BJP MLA and Hate Preacher T. Raja Singh delivering a provocative speech. In the video, the Hindu monk can be heard addressing the crowd, targeting Muslims with inflammatory language. He stated, “Agar tum chahte ho ki





tumhare maa aur bahen ki 36 tukde na ho, aur tumhare mandiron par vidharmiyo ka kabza na ho to sanatani hinduon ka sath den chahiye” (If you want to ensure that your mother and sister are not torn into 36 pieces, and heretics (Muslims) do not take over your temples, then you should support Sanatani Hindus).

On November 3rd, [NDTV](#) reported a gruesome incident from Banda, Uttar Pradesh, where a 40-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped and brutally murdered, her body later dismembered. According to NDTV, the victim, who went to clean Rajkumar Shukla’s flour mill, was heard screaming by her daughter upon reaching the accused’s house. When the locked room was finally opened, the daughter discovered her mother’s body in three pieces. An FIR has been filed against Rajkumar Shukla, his brother Bauwa Shukla, and Ramakrishna Shukla. The accused individuals remain at large, and no arrests have been made in the case.

On November 3rd, Surdarshan News Editor-in-Chief Suresh Chavhanke made an anti-Muslim comment on his [X handle](#) regarding members of the Afghanistan cricket team offering Namaz during net practice. He questioned whether the BCCI was attempting to introduce Islam into cricket, followed by a statement noting the participation of three Afghan players in the practice. Such remarks raise

concerns about religious insensitivity and discrimination within the sports community.

On November 4th, [The Indian Express](#) covered an incident of hate speech in Alwar, Rajasthan. The report detailed that Sandeep Dayma, a former BJP candidate from Tijara, delivered inflammatory remarks during a rally in Tijara on the day of Balak Nath’s nomination filing. The hate speech occurred in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath. He said, “Kis tarah se itni masjidien, kis tarah se gurdware yahan par banakar chhodh diye! Ye aage chalkar hamare liye nasoor ban jayega. Isiliye hamara sabka dharam bhi banta hai ki is nasoor ko yahan se ukhad kar faink denge, aur Baba Balak Nathji ko bhari maton se jeetayenge (See how many mosques, gurdwaras have been built here! This will become an ulcer for us in the future. That is why it’s our duty that this ulcer be uprooted and thrown out, and Baba Balak Nathji wins by a huge majority).” Tijara SDO and Returning Officer Anoop Singh confirmed issuing a notice to Dayma for violating the model code of conduct, emphasizing the need for responsible political discourse.

On November 4th, [The Daily Siasat](#) reported a disturbing incident of physical assault against two Muslim men in Maharana Pratap Nagar, Madhya Pradesh. A viral video on social media captured members of the Bajrang Dal engaging in





a physical attack on the two men. The assailants accused the victims of spending time with a female Hindu friend, and during the assault, they interrogated the men about the woman's religious identity. The attackers used a belt to hit one of the victims and employed abusive language throughout the incident. According to the police, the incident took place on Friday, and they were alerted by Bajrang Dal members who claimed that the two young men were associating with a Hindu woman. Following an investigation, the police arrested both men involved in the assault. The charges pressed against them include invoking Section 151 of the Indian Penal Code.

On November 5th, [The Indian Express](#) reported an incident involving Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, addressing a poll rally in Chhattisgarh's Kawardha Assembly seat. During his speech, Adityanath made remarks that raised concerns about the promotion of anti-Muslim propaganda. The Chief Minister asserted that once the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes to power in Chhattisgarh, action would be taken against those causing disturbances in the name of "love jihad" and cow smuggling. He referred to the success of a similar policy in Uttar Pradesh, where he claimed that love jihad had been completely prohibited, and laws had been enacted against conversion.

Yogi Adityanath also made an inflammatory comment targeting a Muslim Congress MLA during the rally. He stated that Kawardha is as sacred as Kashi (the ancient name for Varanasi), but alleged that the Congress had mischievously appointed a person like Akbar, referring to Mohammad Akbar, the sitting Congress MLA and minister. This remark seemed to carry a negative undertone, possibly aimed at creating a divisive narrative based on religious lines.

On November 5th, [Maktoob Media](#) reported an incident involving hate speech against Muslims in Faridabad, Haryana. Raj Kumar, a Bajrang Dal leader also known as Bittu Bajrangi, who had previously been arrested by Nuh police in connection with anti-Muslim violence and later released on bail, reportedly delivered a hate speech during an address to a gathering in Faridabad. In his speech, Bittu Bajrangi called for a boycott of Muslim businesses amid the Diwali celebrations. The reported comments suggest an attempt to promote animosity and discrimination against the Muslim community, particularly in the economic sphere.

On October 6th, [ETV Bharat](#) reported that Yati Narsinghanand delivered a hate speech in





Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, in response to a media inquiry about the current challenges facing India, he said “समाज की समस्या कैंसर है. वे लोग जो हमास की विचारधारा के समर्थक हैं, समाज के लिए कैंसर हैं. बाकि समस्याएं इसके बाद हैं. जमीयत उलेमा हिंद के अध्यक्ष अरशद मदनी द्वारा हमास को स्वतंत्रता सेनानी बताने पर यति ने कहा कि मदनी दुनिदुनिया के सबसे बड़े जेहा दी हैं. कहा कि दारुल उलूम में वही शिक्षा दी जा ती है जो हमास वालों को दी जाती है. वही शिक्षा दी जाती है, जो तालिबान और दुनिया के जिहादियों को दी जा ती है” (“Society’s problem is like cancer. Those



who support the ideology of Hamas are cancer for society. Other problems come after this. Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind’s president Arshad Madani, while calling Hamas freedom fighters, said that Madani has given the biggest jihad in the world. He said that the education given in Darul Uloom is the same as that given to Hamas supporters. The same education is given to the youth of Taliban and jihadists around the world.”).

On November 7th, a video surfaced on social media [platform X](#) featuring Yati Narsinghanad, a recurrent purveyor of hate speech. During a media address, he made Islamophobic remarks, associating the Holy Qur’an with terrorism, love jihad, rape, and violence. In the video, Narsinghanad was observed maligning the sacred

text in a manner that drew connections between these sensitive issues.

On November 7th, [The Observer Post](#) covered another instance of hate speech originating from Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Dharendra Krishna Shastri, a self-proclaimed Godman also known as Bageshwar-Dham-Sarkar, stirred controversy yet again with a provocative statement concerning India’s identity and religious diversity. Shastri remarked, “When the human body cannot accept the blood of another person, why should the human soul accept the religion of another person? India is not the country of Babar (Muslims) but of Raghuvir (Lord Rama), a Hindu god.”



On November 9th, [Hate Detector](#) brought to light another inflammatory incident against the Muslim community that took place at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Rajvardhan Singh Parmar, the National President of Maharana Partap Sena, was captured making divisive remarks, labeling Muslims as Jihadis and descendants of the Mughal King Babar. In his address, he urged people to refrain from visiting Dargahs or any locations associated with Muslims and advocated for an economic and social boycott against them.



family claimed that Salim was subjected to severe beating by the police and was later found near a mosque, half an hour after being taken, in a critical state. The police refuted the allegations, asserting that Salim was a suspect in a theft case and was taken in for questioning. They stated that he fell ill during interrogation and was subsequently sent to a local government hospital, where he was

On November 9th, [The Daily Siasat](#) reported a disturbing case of physical assault and sexual harassment in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. A school teacher is facing charges for allegedly sexually assaulting a Dalit female student in Class 9 and threatening her with severe consequences if she reported the incident. The Superintendent of Police (rural) stated, “Based on CCTV footage and the filed complaint, a case has been registered under section 376 (sexual assault), 504 (provocation), and 506 (criminal intimidation), as well as under provisions of POCSO Act and SC/ST Act at Kosi Kalan police station in Mathura district.” The authorities have taken action by registering a case under relevant sections to address the serious allegations.

declared dead. The police have registered a case of unnatural death and are awaiting the post-mortem report.

On November 10th, [Sabrang India](#) covered a tragic incident of suicide involving a Dalit boy from the Pudukkottai district in Tamil Nadu. The Dalit student took his own life on November 3, 2023, allegedly following an assault for talking to a girl from a different caste. The family of the deceased filed a police complaint under section 306 of the Indian Penal Code, claiming that he was harassed due to his caste and had faced physical assault from students belonging to the upper caste. The police have registered a complaint under section 306 of the IPC, signaling an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the student’s untimely death.

On November 10th, [The Observer Post](#) reported on a case of alleged police atrocity in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. A 55-year-old Muslim man named Salim passed away under mysterious circumstances after being taken into custody by the police from his residence in Jaleelpur village. According to the family of the deceased, a group of 15–16 policemen arrived at Salim’s house at 2 a.m., taking him and two or three others. The





with 50 when she was playing outside her home and took her to his rented house where he was staying with ASI Chhotelal and raped the minor.” The police filed a case against the sub-inspector under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and relevant sections of the POCSO and SC/ST Act.

On November 11th, *The Siasat Daily* reported another instance of hate speech in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, by Suresh Chavhanke, the editor-in-chief of Sudarshan TV. Chavhanke delivered a speech that targeted the Muslim community, demonizing them by presenting distorted facts and using historical references to propagate hate. He was also seen saying, “Ek jhoot hai jo bataya jaatha hai ki Taj Mahal Shah Jahan ne banaya. Taj Mahal usne nahi banaya, who tho Tejo Mahal that. Rajasthan ke raja ne banaya tha (Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal is a lie often told. He did not build the Taj Mahal, which was Tejo Mahal. The king of Rajasthan built it.) When Siasat.com approached the Kanpur Police who denied hate elements towards the Muslim community in Chavhanke’s speech.

On November 11th, *Hindustan Times* reported another distressing case of rape involving a Dalit girl from Dausa, Rajasthan. The Rajasthan police took action on Saturday by suspending a 54-year-old police sub-inspector, who had been arrested on Friday for allegedly raping a 5-year-old Dalit girl. According to the police, “On Friday, he allegedly lured the minor into his neighborhood

On November 12th, the Editor-in-Chief of *Sudarshan News*, *Suresh Chavhanke*, once again made inflammatory remarks, this time targeting the first education minister of India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Chavhanke was observed presenting distorted and manipulated facts about Maulana Azad, falsely claiming that he was born in Makkah (the Holy Place of Muslims). He questioned how a (Muslim) person born in Makkah could become the first education minister in a country where Hindus hold a dominant position. Chavhanke further expressed discontent that, despite the presence of the BJP government, which he referred to as a Nationalist government, the celebration of Maulana Azad on National Education Day has not been halted.





On November 14th, [X reported](#) another hate speech by BJP leader T Raja Singh. In the video, Singh can be heard appealing to Hindus “हिन्दू लड़कों से कहना चाहता हूँ तुम मुस्लिम लड़कियों को सेशल मीडिया पर प्यार की जाल में फसाओ आर्थिक और कानूनी मदद मैं करूँगा” (I want to inform Hindu boys that if you engage in forming romantic relationships with Muslim girls on social media, I am willing to

provide financial and legal assistance).

On November 13th, [The Observer Post](#) reported a disturbing incident of a mob attack in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. A Muslim man named Afzal lost his life after being assaulted with an iron rod filled with gunpowder on Diwali night in the Link Road police station area. The victim sustained severe injuries from the blast and was rushed to a hospital, where he ultimately succumbed to his wounds. The police stated that the incident occurred around 11 p.m. on Diwali night amid festive celebrations. An investigation is underway, and the police have formed a team to apprehend the accused, Pradeep, who is currently on the run.

On November 15th, [Amar Ujala](#) reported an incident of religious discrimination in Ghasauli, Amroha, Uttar Pradesh. A case was filed against seven individuals, all Muslims, with three of them already in police custody. The incident occurred when a group was observed performing namaz outside a house owned by Jalaluddin. The police responded promptly after receiving a written complaint from resident Tarachand Saini, who alleged that the group was attempting to convert the house into a mosque. Subsequently, an FIR was registered against the seven individuals, leading to the arrest of three of them by the police.

On November 14th, the Editor-in-Chief of Sudarshan News, [Suresh Chavhanke](#), retweeted a video shared by Sudarshan News UP with the communal caption “Milawat Jihad”. The video depicted a raid by SDM Sadar on Muslim vendors from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, who were allegedly selling adulterated ghee during Diwali. Chavhanke, a repeated offender known for such incidents, used the retweet to add a communal color to the situation on the [X](#) platform.





On November 16th, [The Times of India](#) reported an instance of Islamophobia from Bemetara, Chhattisgarh. During a rally in Bemetara, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in an attempt to polarize the election, made disparaging remarks about Muslims by discussing the controversial 'Love Jihad' issue while targeting the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. He claimed that Bemetara in Chhattisgarh had turned into a center for 'love jihad'.



On November 18th, [Sabrang India](#) reported several instances of hate speeches delivered in the poll-bound states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Leaders from the BJP were observed delivering speeches ahead of the elections, with a common theme of targeting the minority Muslim community and promoting divisive policies. The speeches included anti-Muslim narratives related to forced religious conversions, Love Jihad, the demolition of Hindu religious structures, and the alleged illegal migration of Rohingyas. These communal speeches were in violation of the guidelines outlined under the Model Code of Conduct, particularly clause 3, which prohibits appeals to caste or communal feelings for securing votes and prohibits the use of places of worship for election propaganda.



On November 19th [Sudarshan News](#) Channel hosted another communal and Islamophobic debate with the caption, “गैर कानूनी संस्थाएं बांट रही हलाल सर्टिफिकेट्स... अब उनपर चलेगा योगी का बुलडोजर.” (Illegal company distributes halal certificates, and now Yogi's bulldozer runs over them). The Editor in Chief of Sudarshan News, Suresh Chavhanke while hosting the show was seen misrepresenting the halal certification with distorted facts to serve its agenda of TRP.”

On November 20th, [Maktoob Media](#) and [english.jagran.com](#) reported an incident of police atrocity in Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh. According to the reports, Uttar Pradesh Police allegedly killed a 23-year-old Muslim man in the Patwai area of Rampur district, and another Muslim youth was injured in the police firing. The deceased was identified as Sajid Qureshi, while his associate was identified as Babloo (30). A case has been registered against the accused under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

On November 20th, [The Print](#) reported instances of hate speech against Muslims delivered by various right-wing leaders during an event organized at Delhi's Ram Lila Maidan. A cow vigilante



group conducted a rally at the Ramlila Maidan, advocating for the declaration of the cow as the “mother of the nation” and urging an immediate ban on its slaughter. However, some of the speakers at the event not only demanded these measures from the government but were also observed delivering hate speech, issuing threats that if Muslims were to slaughter cows, they would be burned alive.

On November 20th, [Muslim Mirror](#) reported on a protest organized against Halal-certified products in Goa. A delegation consisting of Bajrang Dal, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and Hindu Janajagruti Samiti demanded a ban on the sale of Halal-certified products in Goa, following the decision made by the Uttar Pradesh government. The representatives of these organizations submitted a memorandum at Ponda police station in South Goa, urging the prohibition of the production, storage, and sale of Halal-certified products in the state. Satyavijaya Naik of the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti stated, “Products with halal tags are sold everywhere openly. In Goa, too, we can see the same situation. Hence, we have also demanded that the government take action.”



On November 23rd, [Zeeneews](#) reported another hate crime incident involving a Muslim youth in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. In a video circulating on social media, a group of radical Hindu men were observed physically harassing a Muslim man who was walking with his Hindu female friend. The perpetrators went on to shave his head and subjected him to a public parade. In response to the incident, the Senior

Superintendent of Police (SSP) instructed the local police station to register a First Information Report (FIR) against those involved.

On November 23rd, [Sabrang India](#) reported a case of physical attack against the Dalit community by members of the upper caste over tree-cutting in Morena, Madhya Pradesh. The incident unfolded on November 20 when individuals from the upper caste arrived in the locality to cut trees. Tensions escalated when a Dalit man objected to the tree-cutting, leading to a violent confrontation with sticks and axes. The situation intensified, and Ramavtar, the Dalit man who raised objections, was attacked, sustaining injuries to his head from an axe. Gajraj Mahor, Mayadevi Mahor, Ramavati Mahor, along with their father, Ramabai Mahor,



firm owner and associates. In his complaint, Dalsaniya stated, “Vibhuti Patel forced me to take her chappal in my mouth and made me apologize. She threatened to kill me if I came to Ravapar Road or dared to file a complaint.” An FIR has been registered against the businesswoman and her employees under Sections 323, 504, 506(2) 143, 147, and 149. Additionally, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been invoked in this case.

and Keshavati Mahor, were among those seriously injured in the assault. The Civil Lines police station has registered a case against both parties involved in the inside.

On November 24th, a video widely circulated on [X](#) depicted a member of Bajrang Dal, a Hindutva outfit, issuing threats to Indian Muslims while using abusive language against Islam. This incident raises concerns, especially considering the Supreme Court’s guidelines regarding hate speech. According to these guidelines, an FIR should be promptly filed, and the accused individuals must be arrested immediately.

On November 24th, [The Wire](#) reported a case of physical assault against a Dalit wage laborer from Morbi, Gujarat. Nilesh Dalsaniya, a Dalit man who had recently joined a private firm with a promised monthly salary of Rs 12,000, faced termination on October 18. On November 24, Dalsaniya, accompanied by his elder brother Mehul and their neighbor Bhavesh Makwana, visited the office of Raniba Industries on Ravapar Road to demand his salary and was allegedly assaulted by the

On November 26th, [The Times of India](#) reported a case of caste-based discrimination and physical assault against a Dalit boy in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Allegedly, two upper-caste men from the same village assaulted the teenage Dalit boy, forcing him to drink urine and shaving his eyebrows. The attack was purportedly in response to an accusation of sexual harassment against the boy involving a girl from the assailants’ family. Following the incident, the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Jaunpur took prompt action, and an FIR (First Information Report) was filed against the two men involved in the assault.



On November 28th, *Hindustan Times* reported another case of physical attack against a Dalit woman in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The 45-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly killed by four men who assaulted her because she refused to have her son withdraw a case registered against them under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act three years ago. An FIR has been registered against the four individuals involved in the assault, and they are now booked for murder, assault, and criminal intimidation under the Indian Penal Code and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.



On November 28th, Suresh Chavhanke, the editor-in-chief of Sudarshan News, shared another Islamophobic post on his *X handle*. The post conveyed the sentiment that those Indian Muslims who believe Islam is superior to India should leave the country and go to another Islamic nation.

District, Madhya Pradesh, following an alleged rape of a 15-year-old girl by a Muslim man. According to the FIR, the accused kidnapped the minor girl, allegedly raped her, and attempted to forcibly convert her to another religion. Upon learning of the incident, some Hindutva outfits staged demonstrations at the police station, demanding strong action. During the protests, some miscreants set the accused's father's shop on fire, leading to communal tension in the area. Notably, no action was taken against those involved in the arson.

On November 29th, *Hindutvawatch* reported another hate speech delivered by BJP leader T. Raja Singh in Hyderabad, Telangana. During his address at an event, he declared a resolution to make India a Hindu Rashtra. Singh, referring to Muslims, issued a warning that if elected, he would not permit people wearing skull caps and black clothes to move freely in his constituency. Additionally, he was observed inciting the crowd by invoking the Babri Masjid and Ram Janambhoomi issues, urging Ram bhakts (devotees) to prevent any targeting of Lord Ram and to teach a lesson to those who attempt it.

On November 30th, *Sabrang India* reported another case of physical attack against Dalits in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. According to the reports, two dominant caste men severely attacked five Dalits, including a five-year-old boy, in Perungudi of Madurai district on Monday. The victims were identified as Ganapathy Kumar, Ajith, Vijayakumar, Periyasamy, and his grandson. According to The News Minute, the survivors were engaged in a conversation at a playground when two men from the dominant caste approached them, making casteist slurs. A scuffle ensued, leading to a violent attack by the upper-caste men. An FIR has been registered, and an investigation is underway to apprehend the culprits.

On November 29th, *The Times of India* reported an incident of arson and tension in Satna