

MANUFACTURING HATE:

Unmasking the Provocative
Disinformation Campaign in
Kolhapur

A FACT FINDING REPORT



Association for Protection of Civil Rights

Acknowledgement

The Association for Protection of Civil Rights (APCR) extends its heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation to all individuals who played a pivotal role in the successful completion of this Fact-Finding visit, aimed at investigating the recent acts of violence in Maharashtra Kolhapur district over an objectionable social media post praising Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan, the communal flare escalated resulting in numbers of arrests. We would like to express our sincere acknowledgement to the resilient communities residing in the district of Kolhapur, who fearlessly shared their first-hand experiences of the violence and actively participated in the informative interviews that formed the bedrock of this comprehensive report.

We are indebted to the unwavering dedication and efforts of the diverse group of community leaders, local journalists, lawyers, and civil rights activists who courageously put their lives on the line to promote and safeguard human rights. Their invaluable contributions, in terms of both on-ground assistance and providing crucial information to the fact-finding team, cannot be overstated.

The Association for Protection of Civil Rights also acknowledges with deep appreciation the constant support and cooperation received from the local residents, whose commitment and invaluable assistance were instrumental in the successful accomplishment of our mission, culminating in the final publication of this fact-finding report.

Once again, we extend our profound gratitude to all those who contributed to this endeavor, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to working towards a more just, inclusive, and rights-based society.

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Methodology

The report is the outcome of meticulous quantitative data collection conducted by a dedicated team, comprising esteemed individuals such as **Aslam Ghazi** (President APCR, Maharashtra), **Dr Irfan Engineer** Director of Center for Social and Secular Practice, Mumbai, **Megha Pansare** (Social Worker), **Ashok Jadhav** (Rebel Cultural Movement), **Akbar Makandar** (President JIH, Kolhapur.) who visited district of Kolhapur Maharashtra and made this fact-finding mission possible. The team diligently documented the accounts of affected families of individuals arrested by the Maharashtra police also capturing the statements of lawyers operating in the area, shedding light on several human rights violations perpetrated by the state. The inclusion of secondary sources, specifically media reports, allowed the report to benefit from publicly accessible information and existing coverage of the events. This ensured that the findings and conclusions presented in the report were based on a robust foundation of evidence and helped in providing a comprehensive overview of the situation in Kolhapur district.

Association for Protection of civil rights (APCR), an esteemed non-governmental organisation committed to advocating for the rights of marginalized communities was established in 2006 with a primary focus on providing pro-bono legal assistance. In pursuit of our mission, we undertook this crucial Fact-Finding visit in the Kohlapur district of Maharashtra, aiming to present an accurate portrayal of the ground realities and the prevailing tension in the area, as well as the roles played by law enforcement agencies and the administration.

Through an extensive and comprehensive data collection process, we sought to uncover the truth and shed light on the current situation in the affected region. The testimonies of individuals directly impacted by the violence were recorded, serving as a testament to their experiences and highlighting the urgent need for justice and accountability.

We hope that the findings presented in this report will serve as a catalyst for meaningful change, urging relevant stakeholders, including government bodies, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organizations, to take decisive actions to address the grave human rights violations that have been brought to the forefront.

Introduction

The recent incident of violence in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district on 7th June 2023, sparked by alleged objectionable social media posts, is a distressing reminder of the recurring pattern of unrest and communal tension in India. This unfortunate event, marked by stone pelting, vandalism, and rioting¹, highlights the failure of the administration to effectively control the anger of frenzied crowds and prevent the destruction of property on a large scale.

This incident, occurring in the backdrop of previous instances of communal unrest during events like Ram Navami, further exposes the deep-rooted social divisions and religious polarization, particularly during any celebration. During Ram Navami celebrations, Hindutva outfits instigated violence pan India, leading to the burning of shops and homes belonging to Muslim neighbours², along with the hurling of anti-Muslim slogans. These actions aimed to create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among minority communities.

Amidst this turmoil, it is disconcerting to note that government officials, such as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, have openly criticized the social media posts praising Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan³.

1. <https://indianexpress.com/videos/news-video/kolhapur-violence-36-arrested-for-stone-pelting-vandalism-and-rioting-but-what-caused-it-2/>

2. Hindu Right, Communal Riots and Demolitions: Emerging Pattern of Communal Riots in India
<http://www.sacw.net/article14991.html>

3. Suddenly, sons of Aurangzeb took birth, but...: Maharashtra deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Kolhapur clashes

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/suddenly-sons-of-aurangzeb-took-birth-but-maharashtra-deputy-cm-devendra-fadnavis-on-kolhapur-clashes-11686191319675.html>

As per media reports in the past 12 weeks, at least five men have been arrested in Maharashtra for allegedly putting up posts glorifying Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. As per the First Information Reports, the men have been booked under Sections 298, 295A, 505 (2), and 153A of the Indian Penal Code. On March 17, Mohammad Momeen, a 19-year-old jute bag seller residing in Savarde village of Kolhapur district, was booked for putting up a WhatsApp status allegedly intended to hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus by supporting Aurangzeb. On the same day, another FIR was registered against tempo driver Faizan Saudagar, 23, on March 21, and a third complaint was filed at the same police station against 21-year-old Kudrat Jamadar. Two more such arrests took place in Nashik last week. The first incident occurred in the Ghoti district, where a Facebook post by one Shoaib Maniyar⁴. Unfortunately, even a 14-year-old minor boy was booked under various sections of IPC for uploading posts on social media praising Aurangzeb⁵.

In Kolhapur district, in the first 2 days of violence, a total of 36 individuals were arrested for their involvement in stone pelting, vandalism, and rioting during the bandh⁶. Additionally, six others were arrested concerning a separate incident of stone pelting and rioting that occurred a day earlier. The police registered several First Information Reports (FIRs) regarding the violence and the alleged objectionable social media posts. Furthermore, five more FIRs were registered across the Kolhapur district concerning the circulation of images of Tipu Sultan accompanied by an audio slogan⁷.

On 7th June 2023 afternoon, the situation was effectively managed and restored to order, according to Kolhapur Superintendent of Police Mahendra Pandit. In the evening, district guardian minister Deepak Kesarkar convened a peace committee meeting where representatives from

4. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/arrests-in-maharashtra-over-aurangzeb-posts-what-laws-have-been-used-and-why-8663020/>

5. <https://scroll.in/latest/1050701/maharashtra-14-year-old-booked-over-social-media-post-on-mughal-emperor-aurangzeb>

6. 36 held for Kolhapur unrest as city limps back to normalcy, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/kolhapur-returning-to-normalcy-a-day-after-violent-protests-36-arrested/article66945070.ece>

7. <https://theprint.in/india/maha-stone-pelting-in-kolhapur-over-use-of-tipu-sultans-image-with-offensive-audio-as-social-media-status-police-send-proposal-to-suspend-internet/1616501/>

different organizations and communities committed to upholding peace in the city, as stated by Mahendra Pandit⁸.

Briefly, this fact-finding report examines the recent arrests made in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district in response to incidents of stone pelting, vandalism, and rioting during a bandh (a shutdown) called by pro-Hindutva outfits. The bandh was organized to demand action against objectionable social media posts related to 18th-century Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan. The report also delves into the provisions under which these arrests were made and explores the potential implications of invoking such laws on freedom of speech and the misuse of legal processes for political purposes.



Credit: IANS image

8. Kolhapur clashes: 36 people arrested for rioting, damaging public property, <https://www.livemint.com/news/kolhapur-clashes-36-people-arrested-for-rioting-damaging-public-property-11686200901468.html>



Brief Facts

On 7th June 2023, the city of Kolhapur in Maharashtra recently witnessed violent clashes and protests stemming from social media status messages that allegedly glorified Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and 18th-century ruler Tipu Sultan. These messages, accompanied by offensive audio content, caused a significant uproar among right-wing outfits and Hindu activists. The situation escalated rapidly, leading to stone-pelting, damage to property, and communal tensions. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the events that unfolded during the period of violence in Kolhapur.

Background:

The controversy began when two individuals reportedly posted objectionable social media statuses featuring the images of Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan. Right-wing organizations demanded action against the offenders, leading to the registration of a case by the police. However, the situation worsened when protests turned violent, with the outbreak of stone-pelting and clashes between different religious communities. In response to the escalating unrest, the authorities suspended internet services and issued prohibitory orders under section 144 of CrPC to restore calm in the city.

Chronology of Events:

6.06.23 - Day 1

- Two individuals allegedly post objectionable social media statuses featuring the images of Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan.
- Right-wing outfits demanded action against the offenders, and a case was registered by the police under sections of IPC.

7.06.23 - Day 2

- Right-wing activists call for a shutdown(Bandh) in Kolhapur, congregating at Chhatrapati Shivaji Chowk.
- Police launch a probe into the social media statuses, aiming to defuse tensions and pacify the protesters.

- Unruly elements within the protest resort to stone-pelting, leading to increased aggression.
- Reports emerge of mobs entering Muslim-dominated areas, damaging property and engaging in violence.
- The police resort to lathi charge to control the situation and clear the streets of protesters.
- Internet services are suspended until 8.06.23 evening, and prohibitory orders are issued.

8.06.23 - Day 3

- The situation gradually comes under control, and regular activities begin to resume in Kolhapur.
- Internet services are gradually restored, albeit with some delay.
- Police personnel remain deployed across the city, especially at sensitive locations, to maintain peace and security.
- Investigations continue, with efforts to identify individuals involved in the violence through CCTV footage.

Ongoing Measures:

- The police maintain a strong presence in Kolhapur, deploying both local and additional forces to ensure law and order.
- Nodal officers of internet service providers are notified to resume services gradually.
- The process of identifying and apprehending suspects involved in the violence is ongoing.
- Strict vigilance is maintained, with police deployment at key places and the involvement of State Reserve Police Force units and home guards.



Testimonies

During the Shiv Rajya Abhishek event on June 6th, a minor posted a controversial status involving Tipu Sultan/Aurangzeb. This post caught the attention of Patil, who further publicized it and called for people to react. In response, members affiliated with Hindutva lodged a complaint on the same day, leading to mobilization and subsequent intervention by the police to pacify the situation. Later in the evening, they called for a Kolhapur bandh (shutdown) to demand action against the minor and the release of seven Hindutva individuals who had been arrested.

On June 7th, a significant gathering took place at Shivaji Chowk, with estimates suggesting a mob size ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 individuals. Banda Salokhe was identified as one of the instigators, and the situation escalated into violence as the mob entered Akbar Mohalla, Raye Bakshar, and Lakshmipuri, where riots broke out. Muslim-owned shops along Shivaji Putla Road were specifically targeted.

Evidence of pre-planning was discovered, as one day prior to the events, new flags were placed on Hindu houses in Ganjigali and Rikibdar Gali to identify which houses to spare. Furthermore, it was observed that the mob consisted of individuals from outside the locality, and during the lathi charge (police baton charge), they dispersed in various directions.



Concerns were raised regarding the omission of the names of individuals who incited the mob and delivered hate speeches from the First Information Report (FIR). Additionally, there were reports of Muslim victims facing obstacles in registering their FIRs. It is crucial for the police to investigate the origins of the mob, their source of weapons such as stones, and the selective targeting of Muslim houses among the Hindu residences.

The fact-finding report should highlight these testimonies and ensure an accurate representation of the events without any errors.



Faiyyaz Makhtoom Shaikh (48 years old), Dasara Chowk (cloth shop)

On the 6th of June, between 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm, a group of 10-15 individuals initially arrived, later joined by a larger crowd of 1,000 to 1,500 people. They verbally threatened me, saying, "tujhe hindu karne ka hai" (we will make you a Hindu) and "Dukan band kar nahi to marenge" (close your shop, or we will harm you). They proceeded to pelt me with stones and even used my own slippers to attack me. As a result, I sustained injuries to my back and left leg. The intensity of the beatings caused me significant pain.

Due to concerns related to my upcoming Hajj pilgrimage and potential issues with my passport, I chose not to file a formal complaint. However, I would like to emphasize the extent of the damage caused during the incident. The perpetrators destroyed my shop's floors and "katta"

(platform), and they also looted the goods that were on display. Fearing for my safety, I eventually closed my shop and sought refuge in a nearby Muslim boarding facility. The attack persisted for approximately an hour. *“I hope that we can foster a society based on humanity, devoid of recurring conflicts and violence”* Faiyyaz added.

Abdul Jabbar Abdul Sattar Patel (46 years old)

I own a banana hawking business in Lakshmipur. Around 12 noon, a group of approximately 30-40 individuals arrived and demanded that I shut down my shop. They approached from the side of the Pramod cycle shop and started throwing stones. They also targeted and physically restrained an individual nearby. During this time, there were chants near Ayodhya talkies.

Despite the presence of the police, they remained passive and did not intervene as the mob continued to shout slogans for about an hour. The situation escalated on the 7th of June between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm, with the violence intensifying.

Irfan Aziz Mulla (39 years) r/o Akbar Mohalla

On the 7th, I had my morning tea and around 12 noon, I noticed that everything was closed. A procession (morcha) arrived from Shivaji Chowk. When they reached the Maratha bank barricades, the police lathi-charged and used tear gas to disperse them. As a result, they entered Burud Gali. They picked up bamboo sticks from the lane and proceeded to vandalize the pan shop belonging to Rafiq Akhtar. Additionally, they targeted and destroyed 15 autos.

I made repeated calls to the police, a total of 12 times, but only managed to speak to a constable on six occasions. I demanded immediate police intervention, but unfortunately, they did not send any help. The absence of police for approximately 25 minutes allowed the situation to escalate. In response, some of our people armed themselves with stones, causing the attackers to retreat. Eventually, the police resorted to a lathi charge.

I have lodged a complaint, but I am yet to receive a copy of the First Information Report (FIR). The panchnama has been conducted, and I have incurred a loss of Rs 25,000 due to the damages caused. It is worth noting that during the incident, the attackers were shouting slogans of "*Jai Bhawani*" and "*Jai Shivaji*."

Vasant Rao Malik (Maratha Mahasangh)

They are attempting to suppress the progressive teachings of Shahan Maharaj. The police have failed in their duty as they did not take the necessary precautions. We had a meeting with the Superintendent of Police (SP) 15 days ago regarding the Panhala incident, and we warned the SP about potential instigation attempts. The controversial status was posted about one or one-and-a-half months before the reaction occurred on 6.6.23. Despite the prior warning, the police failed to barricade the roads and prevent the escalation of the situation. The presence of stones indicates there was a pre-existing conflict between the groups involved.

Furthermore, there were outsiders involved in the violence, hailing from Sangli and Islampur. It is crucial to take action against those responsible for posting the controversial status and hold them accountable. Additionally, compensation should be provided to the victims affected by the violence. There is a need to address the issue of hate speech and misinformation on social media platforms. It is essential to find effective ways to control and regulate social media content. Encouraging the expression of progressive sentiments and reviving the composite culture of Kolhapur, including celebrations like Muharram, can contribute to fostering peace and harmony in the community.

Rafiq Mulla (School Committee Chairman, Muslim Boarding Director)

On the 6th of June, a mob arrived during the Maratha morcha. Muslim boarding had made arrangements to accommodate 48 students who were preparing for UPSC exams. Out of these students, only 2 were Muslim, while the rest belonged to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). At around 4 am to 4:30 am, the mob threw stones, resulting in shattered window panes. The

mob consisted of approximately 1000 to 1500 people, with a majority of them being outsiders. A police complaint was lodged, and the CCTV footage of the incident was provided to the police as evidence. One of the students, Moas Nesrikar, who was studying in the library, was injured in his temple by a stone. A panchnama (official record) of the incident was conducted.

Imran Jahangir Sheikh r/o Akbar Mohalla (34 years old)

On the 6th of June, a conspiracy unfolded. Due to the tense situation, I decided not to operate my auto-rickshaw on the following day, and it remained parked. At Shivaji Chowk, a large mob of around 4000-5000 people started sloganeering. The police were outnumbered and unable to effectively control the situation. The mob began targeting shops and autos based on the names displayed on them. As a result, I incurred a significant loss ranging from 10,000 to 15,000 rupees. A panchnama (official record) was conducted, and I filed a complaint. However, no First Information Report (FIR) was registered.

Najmudding Badshah Jamadar

Najmuddin Badshah Jamadar, residing at Lakshateerth Colony and serving as an auto driver and trustee of Chand Mosque, stated in his testimony that on the 6th of June at 1:45 pm, a mob of approximately 200 individuals attacked his auto-rickshaw after inquiring whether it belonged to a Muslim. As a result of this attack, he suffered a financial loss of Rs 7,000, as he did not have insurance coverage. This incident marked the second time he experienced such a loss. He expressed the need for the reform of the rioters involved. In Kergal, the tipu sultan status was three years old.

Marroof Mansur Siddiqui (age 43)

Marroof Mansur Siddiqui, who owns Indian Watch Co. located at Dasara Chowk opposite the Muslim Board, provided his testimony regarding the violence of 6th June. According to him, between 5:00 pm and 5:15 pm, a group of 10-15 boys arrived and initiated the stoning of shops. Subsequently, more individuals joined them in their actions.

During this time, Mr Siddiqui was having tea at Amratullah Chowk. Suddenly, a group of 10-12 people approached him and started physically assaulting him. They specifically targeted him due to his Muslim identity, beating him with their bare hands. As a result, he sustained injuries to his head, neck, ribs, and left hand, which caused a cut. Seeking medical attention, he visited Ambar Clinic where he received the necessary medication. The doctor advised him to rest for three days to recover from his injuries. Additionally, the mob seized the goods that were placed outside his shop, resulting in a financial loss estimated to be between Rs 10,000 and Rs 15,000. It is worth noting that Mr Siddiqui chose not to file a complaint with the police.

Zakir Sayyad f/o Sahadat Sayyad

The status in question, featuring Tipu Sultan with the caption "Baap to baap hota hai" (Father is the true king), was initially harmless. It represented various individuals, including the person in question, without any issues. However, someone with the intention of inciting violence manipulated the status by replacing the photo with that of Aurangzeb and subsequently shared it widely, hoping to ignite communal tensions.

It is important to note that the term "baap" in this context refers metaphorically to being the true ruler or authority figure, rather than having any direct reference to the British or any specific community. The boy responsible for the original status is currently studying in the 10th standard and has no history of conflicts with anyone. He maintains cordial relationships with members of all communities, and his academic performance is satisfactory. It is evident that his intent was not to provoke or offend anyone.

Bakash Rahim Shaikh f/o Sajid (16 years old)

Sajid, a student who has successfully completed the 11th standard and has been promoted to the 12th standard, maintains friendly relationships with individuals from various communities. He is known for his inclusive nature and gets along well with everyone. Sajid demonstrates respect and obedience towards others.

In relation to the recent events, four First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered under Sections 353, 143, 147, 148, and 149 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). As a result, 41 individuals have been arrested in connection with these cases.





Key Findings

1. **Communal Violence and Tension:** The recent incident of violence in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district highlights the recurring pattern of communal tension and unrest in India. Stone pelting, vandalism, and rioting targeting minority communities have created an environment of fear and anxiety among Muslims. Their shops and homes are particularly targeted.
2. **Social Media Posts and Controversy:** the controversy sparked when right-wing outfits objected to social media posts praising emperor Tipu Sultan which was allegedly manipulated by a right-wing outfit to include Aurangzeb's picture to spark the controversy.
3. **Arrests and Legal Actions:** Several arrests were made in connection with the violence and social media posts. At least five men were arrested for putting up posts praising Aurangzeb. FIRs were registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.
4. **Human Rights Violations:** The fact-finding mission documented human rights violations perpetrated by the Maharashtra police. There were allegations of biased FIR registrations, failure to register complaints from Muslim individuals, and failure to take preventive measures to control the violence.
5. **Failure of Administration:** The report highlights the failure of the administration to effectively control the anger of the crowds, leading to widespread property destruction. The lack of proactive measures to prevent violence and protect minority communities raises concerns about the administration's role.

6. **Political Opportunism:** Certain politicians, including Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, engaged in divisive politics by criticizing social media posts and insinuating a connection between opposition leaders and the violence. Such actions undermine responsible governance and perpetuate a climate of suspicion and hatred.

7. **Freedom of Speech and Misuse of Legal Processes:** The report examines the potential implications of invoking laws related to freedom of speech and expression in response to social media posts. It raises concerns about the misuse of legal processes for political purposes and the need to strike a balance between protecting fundamental rights and addressing hate speech.

8. **Urgent Need for Justice and Accountability:** The testimonies of affected individuals highlight the urgent need for justice and accountability. The report calls upon relevant stakeholders, including government bodies, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organizations, to take decisive actions to address the human rights violations and ensure that marginalized voices are heard.

Recommendations

The visit to the affected area and the testimonies collected herein suggest that effective measures are paramount to curb such unruly events and to control the frenzied mob. The Association for Protection of civil rights, Maharashtra chapter team suggests a few recommendations which can work in a synchronized manner.

1. **Accountability of the police department:** the testimonies of victims of violence suggest that the police force did not act upon the calls of the victim when they needed protection and security the most. The department's lackadaisical behaviour has resulted in the loss of property and damage to the victims.
2. **Campaign to diffuse the hostile environment against minority:** the hostile environment and intolerance of the majority is concerning which time and again results in a frenzy of mobs destroying private and public property. Peace must be formed and take responsibility to act upon such volatile hateful situations specifically when religious or any event of great importance are going to be organized. The peace committee on a prior basis arrange peace talks between members and youth of different communities to ensure peaceful celebration of events.
3. **Proper management during bandhs and processions:** it's a recurring pattern of violence that we have witnessed in the past few years. Processions with political and divisive agenda have resulted in violence targeting minority communities. The modus operandi of this violence is well-written and repeated every time. Therefore it is paramount to check if the arrangements have been done properly or not. Whether the police force deployed is sufficient to control the crowd or not. Whether they have the proper equipment to overpower the frenzied mob or not. If not then the result of such processions will always turn violent.

4. **Compensation to victims:** it is imperative to compensate the victims for the loss they incurred as a result of the violence and humiliation caused. This is also crucial to discourage such unruly mobs; nonetheless, they take it as backing from the government for the illegal act they have done.

5. **Divisive politics must stop:** in Maharashtra, the ruling party member and deputy Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis made an inflammatory comment “Aurangzeb ki aulad” referring to the community who praised Aurangzeb and tipu sultan on social media. Being a government official it is dangerous and highly irresponsible of him to target the community and provoke right-wing outfits to commit violence.

6. **Action against the mob that caused the violence:** The fact-finding report suggests that the police acted in a biased manner while not registering the FIR over complaints of Muslims. whereas the arrests were made of Muslim minor boys for putting social media posts praising Aurangzeb and tipu sultan

CONCLUSION

The recent acts of violence in the district, triggered by alleged objectionable social media posts praising Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan, have highlighted the deep-rooted communal tensions and religious polarization in society. This fact-finding report aimed to shed light on the incidents and provide a comprehensive understanding of the ground realities in the affected region.

Through meticulous data collection and testimonies from affected individuals, it became evident that the violence resulted in significant damage to property and posed a threat to the safety and security of minority communities. The communal flare-up during the bandh and the subsequent arrests made by law enforcement agencies raised concerns about the potential misuse of legal provisions and restrictions on freedom of speech and expression.

The report also uncovered instances of targeted violence, wherein mobs selectively targeted Muslim-dominated areas, damaging properties and instilling fear among the residents. The testimonies provided by the affected individuals painted a harrowing picture of the violence they endured and highlighted the urgent need for justice and accountability. Furthermore, the report examined the government's response to the situation and identified instances of political opportunism and divisive rhetoric. Instead of fostering unity and promoting dialogue, certain government officials engaged in blame-shifting and failed to address the underlying issues that contribute to such incidents.

In conclusion, this fact-finding report emphasizes the importance of upholding the principles of justice, equality, and the protection of human rights. It calls for a thorough and impartial investigation into the incidents of violence, ensuring that those responsible are held accountable for their actions. The report also urges government bodies, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organizations to take decisive actions to address the root causes of communal tensions and promote communal harmony.

The Association for Protection of Civil Rights remains committed to advocating for the rights of marginalized communities and working towards a more just, inclusive, and rights-based society. It is our hope that the findings presented in this report will serve as a catalyst for meaningful change and contribute to the establishment of a society where diversity is celebrated, and all individuals can live in peace and harmony.

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APCR Maharashtra Chapter Fact-finding Team



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