



Hate Crime Report

Mapping First Year of Modi's Third Government

Jun 2024 - Jun 2025



Association for
Protection of
Civil Rights



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Introduction

In 2015, a Muslim man and his son were dragged out of their house at night by a mob. The mob was armed, angry, and accusing them of slaughtering a calf on the occasion of Eid al-Adha in order to consume it. It left the man dead and his son seriously injured. A decade later, the last entry in the hate crimes dataset is of 7 June 2025, when multiple groups consisting of Hindus stormed a Muslim-majority neighborhood with claims of cow slaughter on the occasion of Eid al-Adha. The last entry not only reveals a systematic pattern but also the deep-seated entrenchment of malice against certain sections of Indian society since 2015. The malice targets Muslims, Dalits, Adivasis, and Christians amongst other minorities while being systematic, vengeful, and going nowhere. Hate crimes have increased in both number and intensity.

Despite the increasing intensity and occurrences, there is no systematic or institutional effort to record or document hate crimes. While atrocities against Dalits are officially recorded under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which provides a legislative framework for dealing with violence against Dalits and tribal groups, there is a lack of similar legal provisions for hate crimes against religious minorities in India. This periodic report is part of an effort to fill the gap in research and documentation around the targeting of religious minorities in India.

Hate crimes and hate speech have a broader effect than other crimes. This is primarily because they never occur in isolation, even if they are centered around an event, and secondarily because they affect not only the victims but families, communities, and the nation. It becomes essential to take them in cognizance and work towards eradicating them by producing a solution-oriented paradigm to convey that the people have taken a stand against hate crimes and hate speech. The first step towards this paradigm is documentation, so the scale of this problem can be understood.

Research Methodology

This report on incidents of hate crimes and hate speech has been prepared through a systematic methodology aimed at ensuring accuracy, reliability, and integrity. Our data collection involved sourcing information mainly from secondary sources such as media reports and social media platforms, with a focus on both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The data, collected from media reports, provided insights into documented incidents of hate crimes, while social media content offered perspectives on the prevalence and dissemination of hate speech and hate crimes. Our verification procedures included cross-referencing data from multiple sources and personal verification to enhance the reliability of the findings.

For this report, the data collected to analyze hate crime incidents of last year was restricted from June 7, 2024, to June 7, 2025. This was done keeping in view that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won its third consecutive term in the centre on June 7, 2024. Hence, when the report refers to “year”, it would be referring to the time period from June 7, 2024, to June 7, 2025, and not the year 2024.

Defining Hate Crime & Hate Speech

Hate Crimes are all offences, criminal in nature, and rooted in prejudice. Therefore, a crime must fulfill two conditions to be considered a hate crime. First, the aggressor must exhibit prejudice or hostility in the form of ill will, spite, contempt, antagonism, resentment, or dislike towards the social identity of the victim before, during, or after the crime. The crime being motivated by the identity of the victim also fulfills the first condition. Secondly, the crime must involve or lead to damage to belongings, persons, or property. Hence, crimes including but not limited to assault, boycott, expulsion, murder, arson, vandalism, or threats to commit the aforementioned crimes can be treated as hate crimes if they fulfil these two conditions.

The Indian Penal Code (as well as its current iteration, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita) has always recognised certain kinds of speech as criminal due to its potential to incite ‘disaffection’ or hatred among members of different communities. In a broader sense, however, hate speech is the offensive discourse targeting individual(s) which is motivated by hostility towards a particular social identity. It is discriminatory and contemptuous towards the inherent characteristics of individual(s), which are often the defining aspects like their religion, ethnicity, or other identity factors. Characteristics of the identity, such as language, economic or social origin, or other perceived stereotypes, are often targeted in hate speech. It can be disseminated offline or online in the form of speech, writing, and behavior, including images, gestures, symbols, and rhetoric. Hate Speech is violent in nature, and incites violence. As

such, it must threaten the social peace and harmony of a locality or community. Although there is no universal definition of hate speech and it remains a highly debated concept, it can be agreed upon that any form of expression inciting discrimination, hatred, or violence against a community is Hate Speech, whether or not it involves immediate violence.

For the purposes of our documentation, we have limited ourselves to hate speech targeted against religious minorities in India. Hate speech incidents reported in national and local media were recorded and analysed according to the speaker, organisational affiliation, mode of communication, and its dissemination, and the content of the speech. Every incident of hate speech was then analysed on the basis of the internationally recognised six-part threshold test laid out in the United Nations' Rabat Plan of Action.

This report is based on data compiled by a joint effort of the Association for Protection of Civil Rights and the Quill Foundation.

Limitations

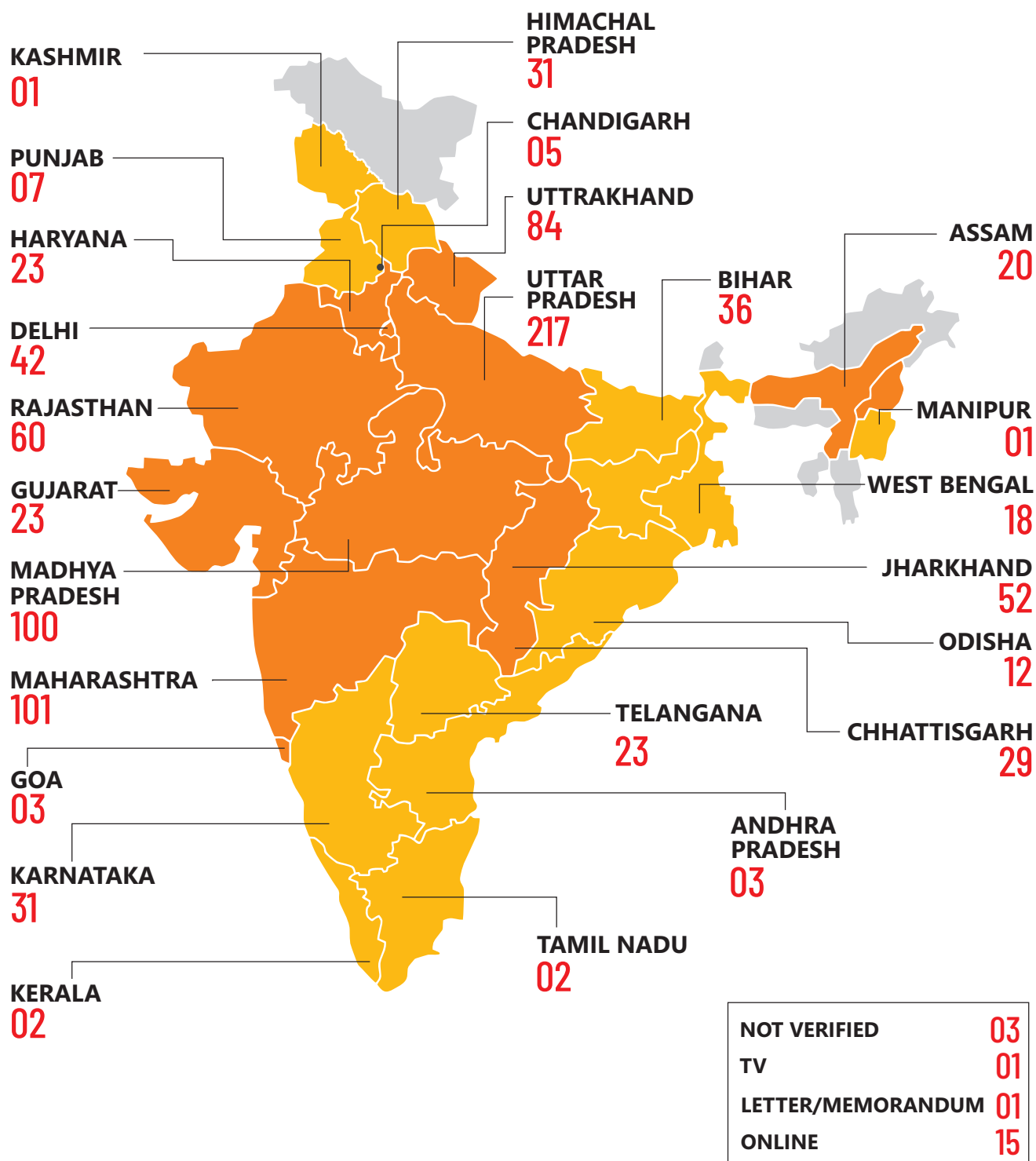
Since the report only looks at reported incidents, it does not lay any claim to comprehensiveness. Anecdotal evidence, as well as our experience of reporting on hate crimes, would suggest that most incidents of hate crimes and hate speech go unreported. Media reporting of hate crimes and hate speech is heavily tilted towards covering the more shocking and gruesome cases of violence, thereby invisibilizing the everyday forms of violence. The lack of a legislative/legal framework to specifically address violence against religious minorities further discourages reporting and exacerbates the lack of credible official data. Despite our best efforts to cull reports from non-English and regional news outlets, the numbers shown here are only representative of the scale of the problem. The data in this report is a fair accounting of all reported incidents of violence against religious minorities in India, but it is by no means a complete accounting of all such violence happening in the country.

Key Findings

- A total of 947 hate crime incidents took place in the first year of Modi's third regime. Of these 947 hate crimes, 345 were hate speeches and 602 were hate crimes.
- Out of the 602 hate crimes, 173 involved physical violence targeted at minorities. In 25 of these, the victim died. All victims were Muslims. The incidents of the year also affected 25 Hindu individuals. While not the main victims or targets of the hate crime, their presence at the scene resulted in direct harm to their person or property. Here, Hindu women were more affected than Hindu men.
- Out of the 345 hate speeches made in the year, 178 were made by individuals associated with the BJP.
- BJP-ruled states are more prone to incidents of hate crime. So are the states where election campaigns are ongoing. Earlier data had limited the assumption of this occurring only during elections for the parliament and the legislative assembly. But this report reveals that local elections could also become the loci of hate crime incidents, particularly hate speeches, as was revealed during the election for the Local Councillor in Uttarakhand.

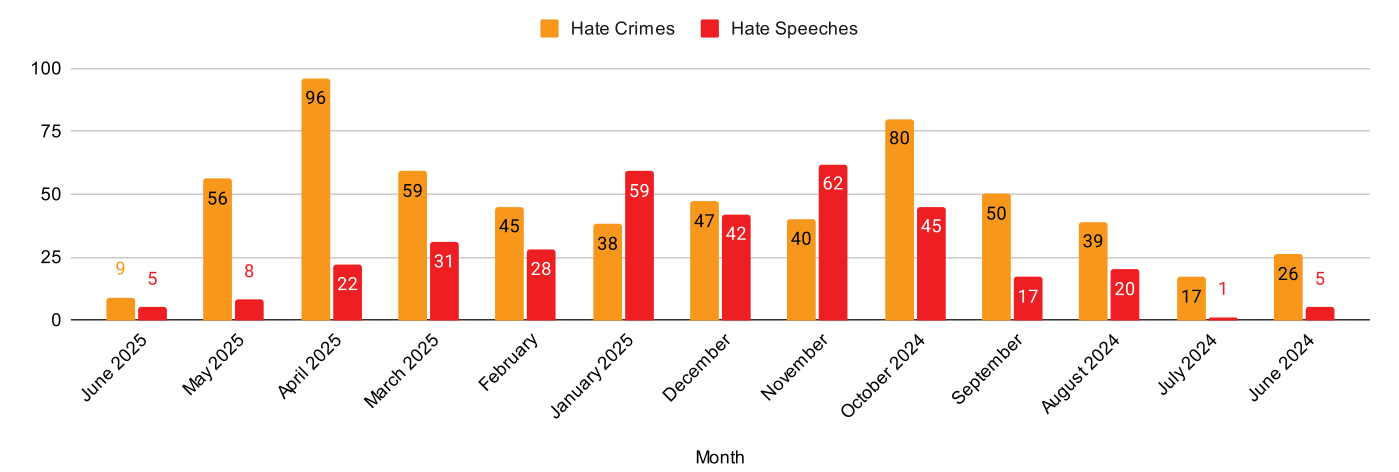
Hate Crime Incidents

State-Wise Breakdown



From 7th June 2024 to 7th June 2025, India experienced at least, 947 incidents of hate crime. Uttar Pradesh was the worst hit with 217 hate crime incidents, and Manipur was the least affected with one. States governed by the BJP dominated the list of hate crime incidents. Out of the affected 25 geographical areas, 12 were BJP-ruled states. Four out of the five states facing the highest number of hate crime incidents were ruled by the BJP throughout the year, and the remaining fifth became a BJP-ruled state after 23rd November 2024.

Month-Wise Breakdown



It is normal for at least 80 hate crimes to be recorded in a month. These 80 would consist of 40 hate crimes and 40 hate speeches. However, if either of the two categorizations of hate crime incidents hits 50, it is considered a departure from the normal pattern and a spike. These spikes in hate crime incidents can either be motivated by a local anomaly or a national event. Following this methodology, the months of September, October, November, March, April, and May reflect a spike in different categories. While September, October, March, April, and May saw a spike in hate crimes, the months of November and January saw a spike in hate speeches.

September

September recorded 23, the highest number of hate crimes in the third week, i.e., from 15 to 21 September. Though there is a spike, there is no pattern or trend emerging from the data collected. The incidents are scattered across the country, with more incidents of hate crimes than hate speeches. They reflect local anomalies, erupting from inter-community relationships, cow vigilantism, and religious processions of Ganesh Chaturthi.



(A Muslim driver was assaulted in Sheikhpura, Bihar in September, 2024)



(Muslim man assaulted over false accusations of Love Jihad and Urine Jihad in Thane, Maharashtra, in September, 2024)



(Hindu outfits vandalized Muslim residences in Panna, Madhya Pradesh, during a procession of Ganesh Pandal in September, 2024)



(Hindu locals attacking a Muslim family for buying a house in a Hindu majority locality in Muzaffarnagar in September, 2024.)

October

October recorded 80 hate crimes. There were multiple crimes motivated by conversion allegations, religious procession/festival, non-vegetarian food, and denial of access to public space. The worst-hit states were Uttar Pradesh with 21 hate crimes, Madhya Pradesh with 16, and Maharashtra with 11. Multiple incidents in Uttar Pradesh reflected a trend situating the Dandiya/Garba functions of the Navratri festival as loci, where Muslims were both assaulted and denied access to public space. There seemed to also have been a campaign against religious conversions in Uttar Pradesh. Multiple prayer meetings were disrupted, with pastors being either threatened or arrested, leading to a disruption in the Christian community. Madhya Pradesh, meanwhile, underwent a strenuous atmosphere. The initial weeks bore witness to a majority of hate crimes related to the participation of Muslim men in Dandiya/Garba and false accusations of Love Jihad, while the last week was dominated

by a campaign by right-wing outfits advocating for an economic boycott of Muslim-owned businesses. On the other hand, Maharashtra faced a seemingly coordinated campaign of right-wing outfits. The outfits were involved in 7 out of 10 hate crime incidents in the month. These included allegations of conversion, assault of Muslims, cow vigilantism, and interruption of prayer meetings of Christians and sermons of Muslims. Maharashtra's State Legislative Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in November.



(Right-wing outfits raided a prayer meeting in a Christian school, over allegations of religious conversions in Ramkanda Garhwa area of Jharkhand in October, 2024)



(3 Muslims were attacked by cow vigilantes in Valavadi village of Gujarat in October)



(Muslim man attacked for attempting to participate in a Navratri event in Kanpur city in October, 2024)



(Far-right leaders Aastha Maa and Vinay Hindu harassed a Muslim vendor in Ghaziabad in October 2024)



(Muslim man attacked for participating in a Garba event in October in Ujjain)



(Christian family harassed after being accused of religious conversion by locals in Amethi city in October)



(Bajrang Dal assaulted a Muslim man for being with a Hindu woman in a hotel in Ujjain in October)



(Bajrang Dal members assaulted a Muslim man for being with a Hindu woman near a hotel in Shujalpur of Madhya Pradesh in October)



(Campaign aimed at a boycott of Muslim owned businesses in the cities Bhopal, Shamgad and Dewas of MP in October)



(Muslim man assaulted for plotting Love Jihad by participating in fashion show in Indore in October)

November

November recorded 62 hate speech incidents. The worst-hit states were Jharkhand with 34 hate speech incidents and Maharashtra with 15. The themes of the speeches were strikingly similar. In both states, the tropes of Rohingya/Bangladeshi/Infiltrators, Jihad Conspiracies, and Reservations were deployed in the majority of the speeches. While the speeches in Jharkhand were limited to these three themes, Maharashtra saw an extension in the tropes of Disputed Places of Worship, Waqf Board, and Aurangzeb/Aurangzeb's Tomb. In both states, the speeches were given by individuals associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party, with the exception of 3 speeches in Maharashtra that were given by Suresh Chavhanke. All speeches attempted to monger fear among the audience towards Muslims and tried to incite resentment towards Congress and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. Both Jharkhand and Maharashtra went to polls in November for the State Legislative Elections.



(Hate speeches made by BJP leadership in Jharkhand in November included the ones by Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers—of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Madhya Pradesh—, and Union Ministers, Rajnath Singh and Shivraj Singh Chouhan. All speeches met the Rabat Test and proved positive.)



(Hate speeches were made BJP leadership in Maharashtra in November. The one made by a non-BJP leader was of Raj Thackeray. All speeches met the Rabat Test and proved positive for inciting hatred, discrimination, and violence towards Muslims.)

January

January saw a spike in hate speech. Hate speech incidents were concentrated mainly in Uttarakhand with 17 hate speech incidents, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 13 hate speech incidents, and Delhi with 6 hate speech incidents. Other hate speech incidents were scattered across states with no significant patterns and seemed to be incited by local anomalies. However, Uttarakhand saw 17 hate speeches, with 14 made by the Chief Minister himself, two by those running or supporting candidates in the Councillor Elections, and the remaining one made by a Hindutva leader. Uttarakhand is slated to go to the polls on 25 January for the Councillor Elections. The hate speeches appear to be part of the election campaign. Uttar Pradesh, on the other hand, had a spike in hate speech incidents because of the Kumbh Mela, which platformed a number of conventions of right-wing outfits. These conventions facilitated 9 of the hate speeches in January. Delhi, in a pattern similar to that of Uttarakhand, is slated to go to polls on 8 February and has recorded 6 hate speech incidents. These speeches in Delhi were made by individuals who have a massive following, such as Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, as well as BJP leaders Nazia Elahi Khand and Ravinder Singh Negi, who enjoy a certain influence over the public.



(15 hate speeches in Uttarakhand were made by BJP leaders. Of these, 14 were made by the Uttarakhand CM and one by a candidate.)

March

March saw a spike in hate crimes targeting both Muslims and Christians. There was no geographic concentration, but a thematic pattern materialized. In multiple incidents, Christians were stopped from holding prayer meetings. In case of resistance to the interruption, Christians often face physical assault, as was reflected in a case where two priests, one of whom was a senior citizen, were assaulted by right-wing outfits in a police station. Apart from this, at least three churches were vandalized in March by right-wing outfits. Overall, 267 Christians were victimized. On the other hand, Muslims faced a range of hate crimes. Places of worship, including dargahs, were targeted, leading to actual vandalism of 9 sites from the overall 17 places of worship targeted. The house of a Muslim was also vandalized. In total, 10 Muslim-owned properties bore the brunt. March also platformed

religious festivals comprising processions of Hindus, Holi celebrations, and Ramadan/Eid. Religious processions led to 4 hate crimes against Muslims, Holi led to 7 hate crimes, while 5 hate crimes occurred in the context of Ramadan/Eid. It reveals how hate crimes, thus, inevitably spike around religious festivals and processions. An overarching cause emerging in all incidents was the Hindu side claiming their religious sentiments to be hurt, whether it stemmed from Muslims refusing to play Holi or alleged slogans, objectionable to Hindus, being raised in Muslim-dominated areas during religious processions.

Apart from this, 6 hate crimes pertaining to the removal/demolition of Aurangzeb's tomb also took place. The first incident occurred in Delhi at the hands of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), it then spread to Maharashtra, where 3 hate crimes occurred, and finally to Uttar Pradesh, where 2 hate crimes took place—right-wing outfits were entangled in all 6 incidents. The spread of hate crimes with Aurangzeb as the push factor illustrates how tropes and controversies are manufactured. While the spread to Maharashtra could be deemed as organic, considering it is the state where his tomb is located, the hate crime incidents in Uttar Pradesh are far removed from both the locus and the causa. It also depicts how the right-wing deploys certain materials, such as the movie Chhava, which portrayed a rivalry between Aurangzeb as a Muslim ruler and the Hindu community, to create rifts leading to incitement to hate crimes. In Delhi, the demand was raised for the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb, which led to 5 incidents of hate crimes in 2 states. Here, hate speech incited 5 incidents of hate crime in an environment charged by a movie.



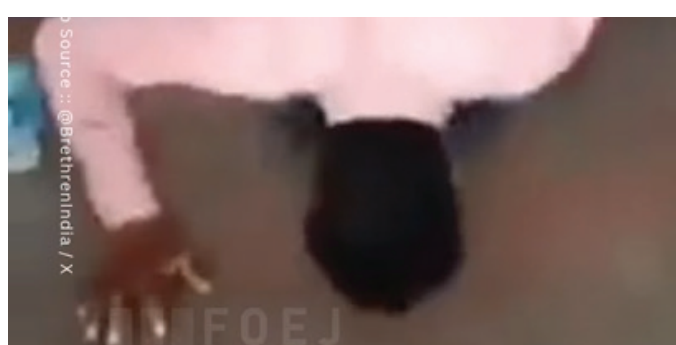
(Church demolished in Raipur of Chhattisgarh in March)



(Statue of Mother Mary was vandalised in Delhi in March)



(Mob attacked and vandalised another Church in Raipur in March)



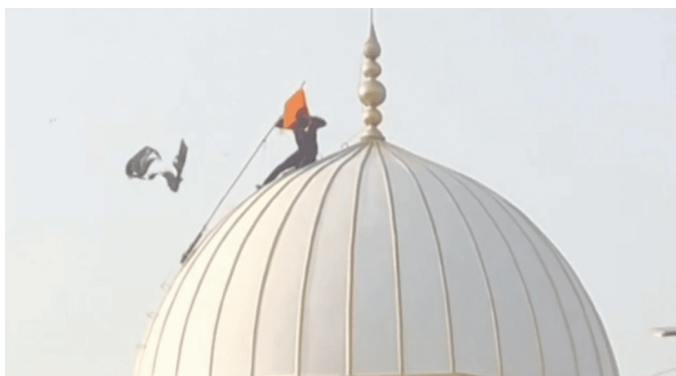
(A Christian man was harassed for distributing Bible in Telangana in March)



(Mosque in Ratnagiri was vandalised during a religious procession of Hindus in March)



(Dargah desecrated in Prayagraj during Ram Navami procession in March)



(Dargah desecrated in Rahuri in Maharashtra in March)



(Muslim man assaulted by Holi revellers in Baghpat in March)



(Hindu locals blew up a mosque in Beed in March)



(Right-wing fundamentalists blocked a board saying Aurangabad in March in Meerut city)



(Right-wing outfits burnt an effigy of Aurangzeb in Nagpur in March)

April

96 hate crimes occurred in April. There is no significant geographical trend, with Uttar Pradesh being the most affected with 27 hate crimes. There was a spike in Uttar Pradesh post the Pahalgam Terror Attack. The state had only recorded 10 hate crimes before the Attack, but afterward, there was more than a 100% spike with 17 hate crimes recorded afterwards. The spike following the Pahalgam Terror Attack was not restricted to Uttar Pradesh. The Attack created a hostile atmosphere for Muslims in India, leading to an unprecedented spike in the number of hate crimes. Post the Attack, 68 hate crimes occurred in April, of which 44 were directly caused by the Attack.

April also saw celebrations of Ram Navami and Easter, a sexual assault in Nainital which led to communal violence targeting Muslims, and the passing of the Waqf Act in the Parliament as well as agitation against it from Muslims. Both festivals caused hate crimes. Easter celebrations were interrupted, while Ram Navami processions led to hate crimes targeting Muslims. Apart from this, April also witnessed a spike in attacks on properties, attacks on the Muslim economy, and denial of access to public space. 16 properties with Muslim character or ownership were targeted in April. Among the attacked properties, 10 had religio-cultural importance for Muslims, of which 6 were actually vandalized, and 5 were shops/stalls. 14 hate crimes targeted the economic boycott of Muslims. These included, but were not limited to, evicting Muslim vendors, banning them from commercial spaces, and vandalising their properties. 4 hate crimes denied access to public space, of which 3 affected Muslims, while 1 affected Christians.



(Church vandalised and a saffron flag was hoisted on it in Raigarh in April)



(Right-wing outfit interrupted a celebration of Easter Sunday in Ahmedabad in April)



(Ram Navami procession featured an installation of Love Jihad in Jodhpur in April)



(Muslim owned businesses were vandalised in Nainital in April)



(Right-wing outfits assaulted owners and customers of Muslim owned businesses in Nainital in April.)



(Muslims were banned in a Rajasthan village in April)



(Muslim owned businesses attacked in Ambala in April during a rally against Pahalgam Terror Attack)



(Mosque vandalised in Rajasthan's Barmer in April)



(Madrasa attacked in Telangana over false allegations of desecrating a temple in April)



(Muslim boys were denied access to a public park in Bareilly in April)

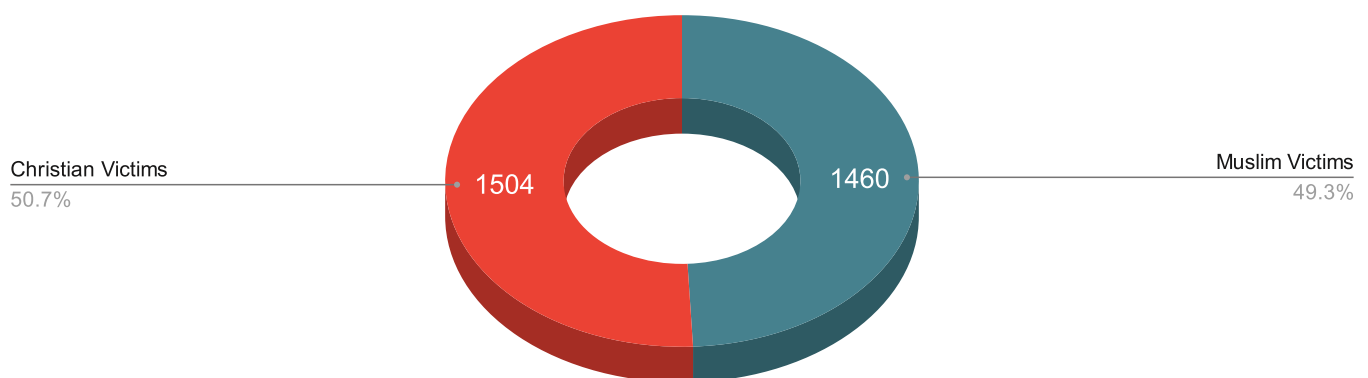
May

May, despite having 56 incidents, did not reveal patterns except for the Pahalgam Terror Attack and the succeeding war between India and Pakistan. May recorded a sharp 21 number of incidents till 6 May 2025. This amounts to at least 3 hate crime incidents per day. All of them were invoked by the atmosphere created by the Attack and the War. The spike declined subsequently but reappeared four days later on 11 May with 5 incidents recorded, which are attributed to local anomalies.

Victims

Religiosity

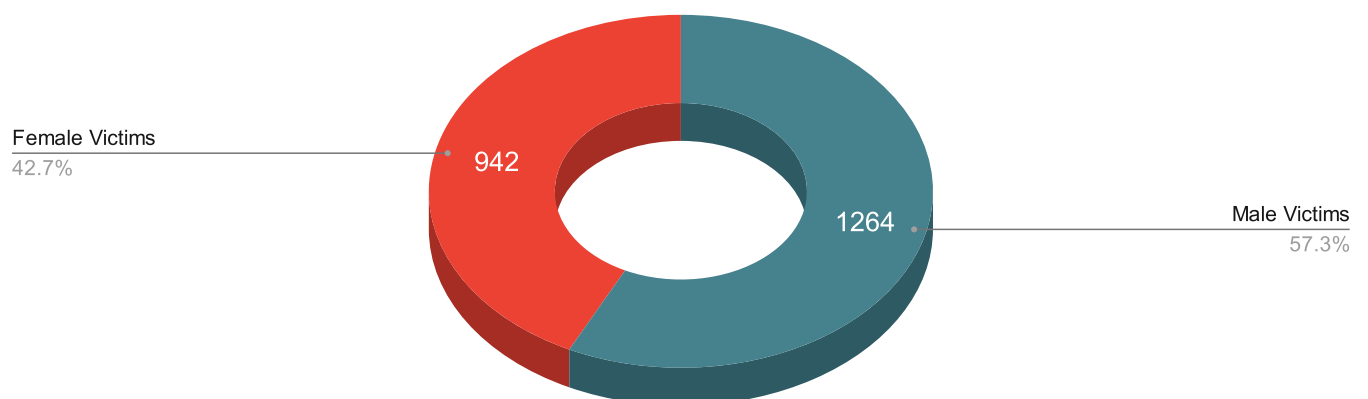
In 504 of the 602 hate crimes of the year, the number of individuals victimized was traced through secondary sources such as news media reports and subjected to verification.



At least 2964 individuals were affected in 504 incidents during the year. Of 2964 victims, 1460 were Muslims and 1504 were Christians. 1460 Muslims were affected in 419 incidents while 1504 Christians were affected in 85 incidents. Hence, while Christian individuals were affected more than Muslim individuals, Muslims faced more incidents and intensity than Christians in incidents.

Gendering

The male gender is more vulnerable to hate crimes. They are easily targeted and hence, retain the larger share, but the gap between the male and female genders as victims is decreasing.

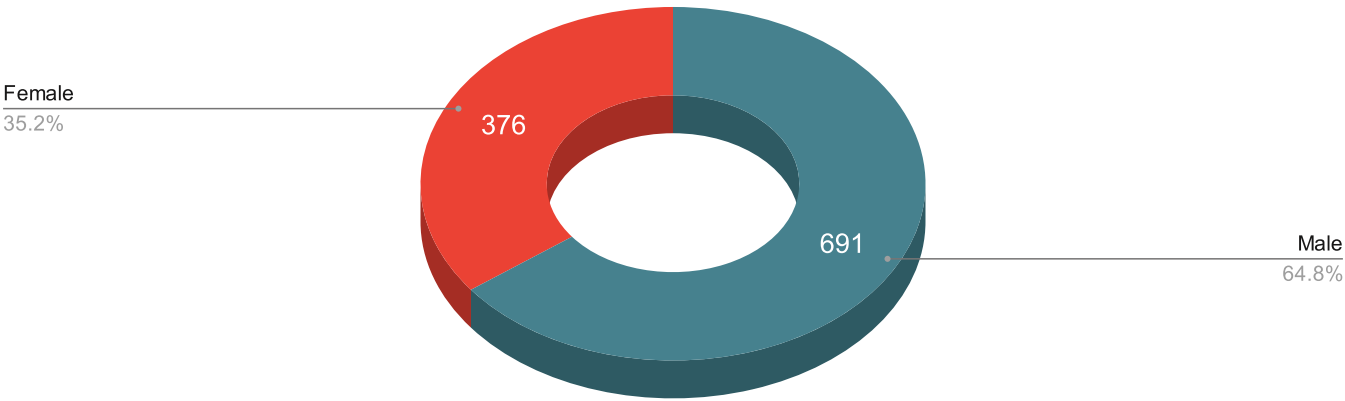


Of the 2964 individuals affected in the year, 1264 were men and 942 were women.

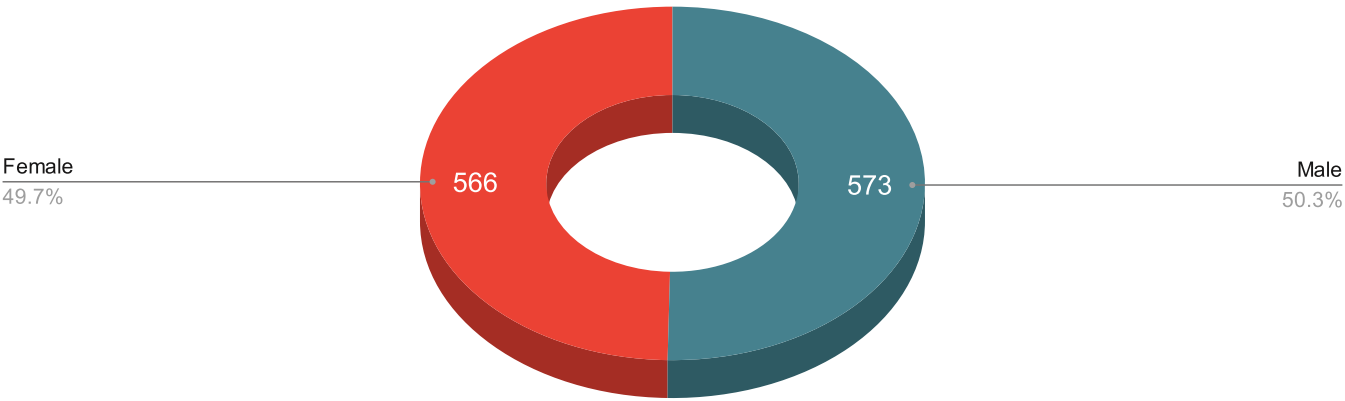
Gendering the Religiosity

1460 Muslim individuals were affected this year. Of these, 691 were men and 376 were women. On the other hand, the proportion of gender in Christians is almost the same. Of the 1504 targeted, 573 men and 566 women of the Christian community were affected.

The totaling of male gender victims and female gender victims would not equal the total number of victims, as the gender of all victims was not mapped due to a lack of information available.



(Muslim Victims)



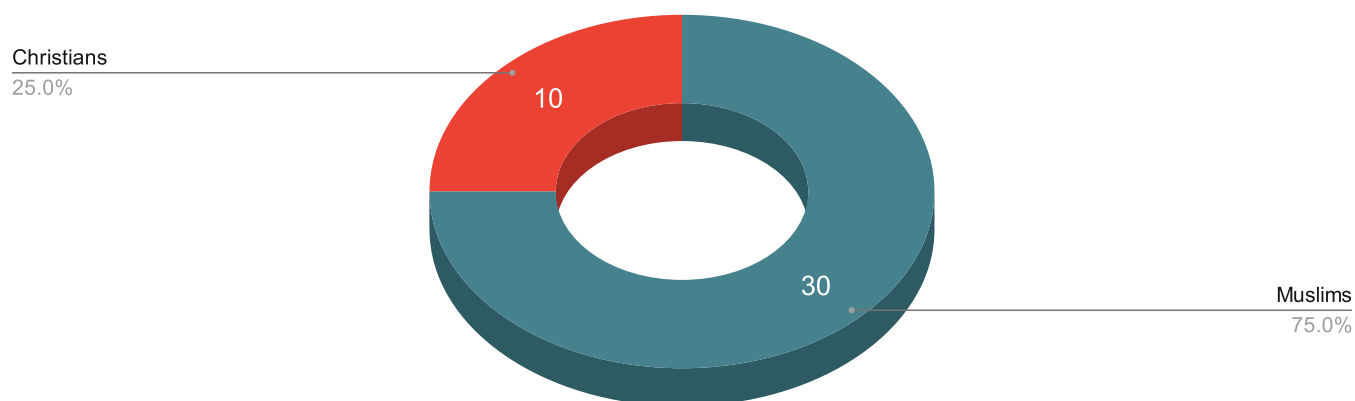
(Christian Victims)

Minor Victims

62 minors were targeted in 32 hate crime incidents across the year. 30 of these were Muslims, targeted in 24 hate crimes, and the remaining 10 Christians were targeted in 8 hate crime incidents.

In 20 of 30 incidents targeting Muslim minors, physical violence was enacted. In 18 of these,

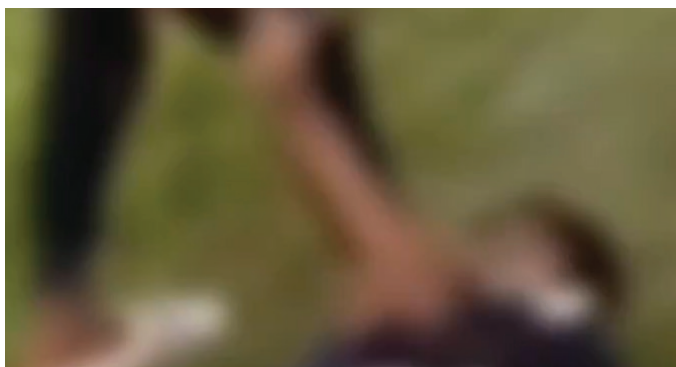
Muslim minors faced physical assault on their body, and in 2, they witnessed an attack on their property. In 6 of the incidents, Muslim minors faced a mob, and in 5 of them, sustained injuries. In 3 incidents, Muslim minors were denied access to public space.



All three incidents took place in schools. In one of these incidents, a Muslim nursery student was suspended. In the other two, students faced assault for participating in a school function celebrating Hindu festivals.



(Muslim boys were attacked by a mob that also raised communal slogans in Bulandshahr in June)



(Muslim boy attacked by Hindu boys in Muzaffarpur, Bihar in August)



(3 Muslim minors were attacked by a Hindu boy in Ratlam in October)



(A Muslim student of Nursery standard was suspended in Amroha in September)

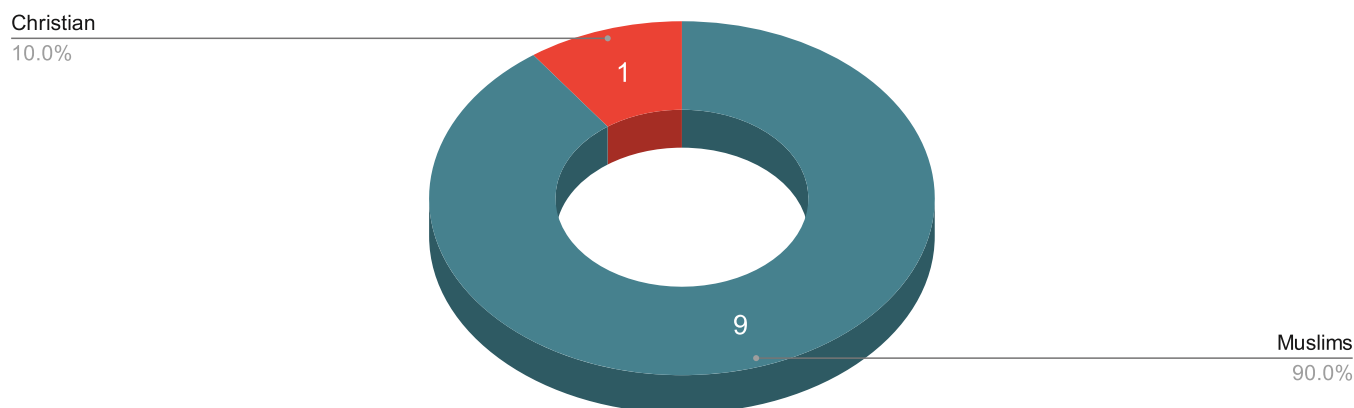
In all 8 hate crime incidents involving Christian minors, they faced harassment/intimidation. Christian minors were attacked by mobs in 4 incidents. In one of the attacks, they sustained injuries. In one incident, they faced denial of access to public space and an attack on property. The incident occurred in a school at the hands of the VHP.



(Vishwa Hindu Parishad raided a kindergarten school and interrupted Christmas celebrations)

Senior Citizens as Victims

10 senior citizens were targeted in 10 hate crimes across the year. 9 of them were Muslims and one Christian. The Christian victim, a senior priest, was assaulted by right-wing outfit



members inside a police station in Jabalpur when he had gone there to seek relief for the 50 Christians detained there. These 50 Christians were in a bus that right-wing outfits had hijacked and driven to the police station.



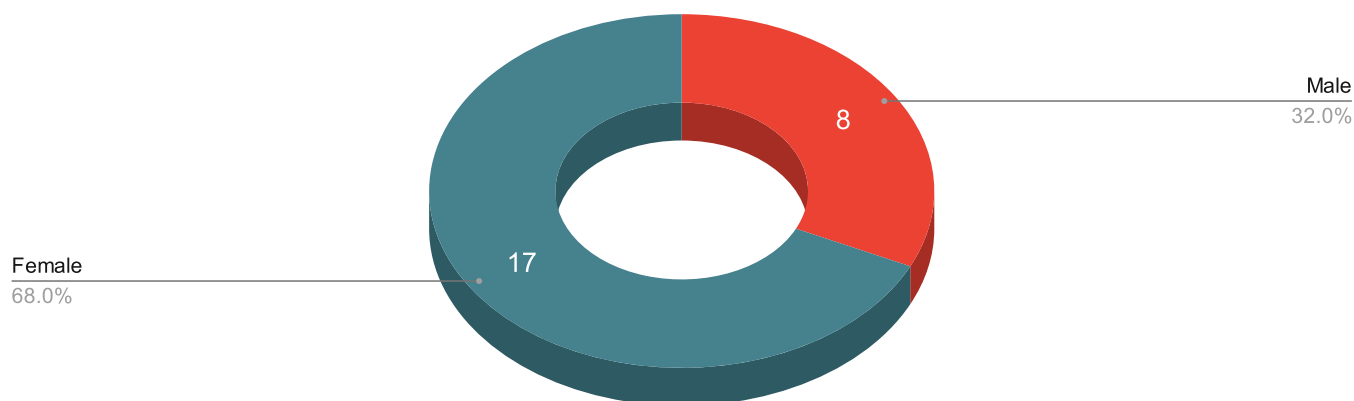
(Muslim man was assaulted in a moving train in Maharashtra in August)



(Muslim man was assaulted for begging in a Hindu majority area in Amethi in October)

Hindu Victims

Affected individuals belonging to the Hindu community were not included in the category of hate victims because they were not the targeted parties, but they, in a number of events, faced collateral harm. A total of 25 Hindus were affected by hate crimes in the year. Of these, 8 were Hindu men and 17 were Hindu women.

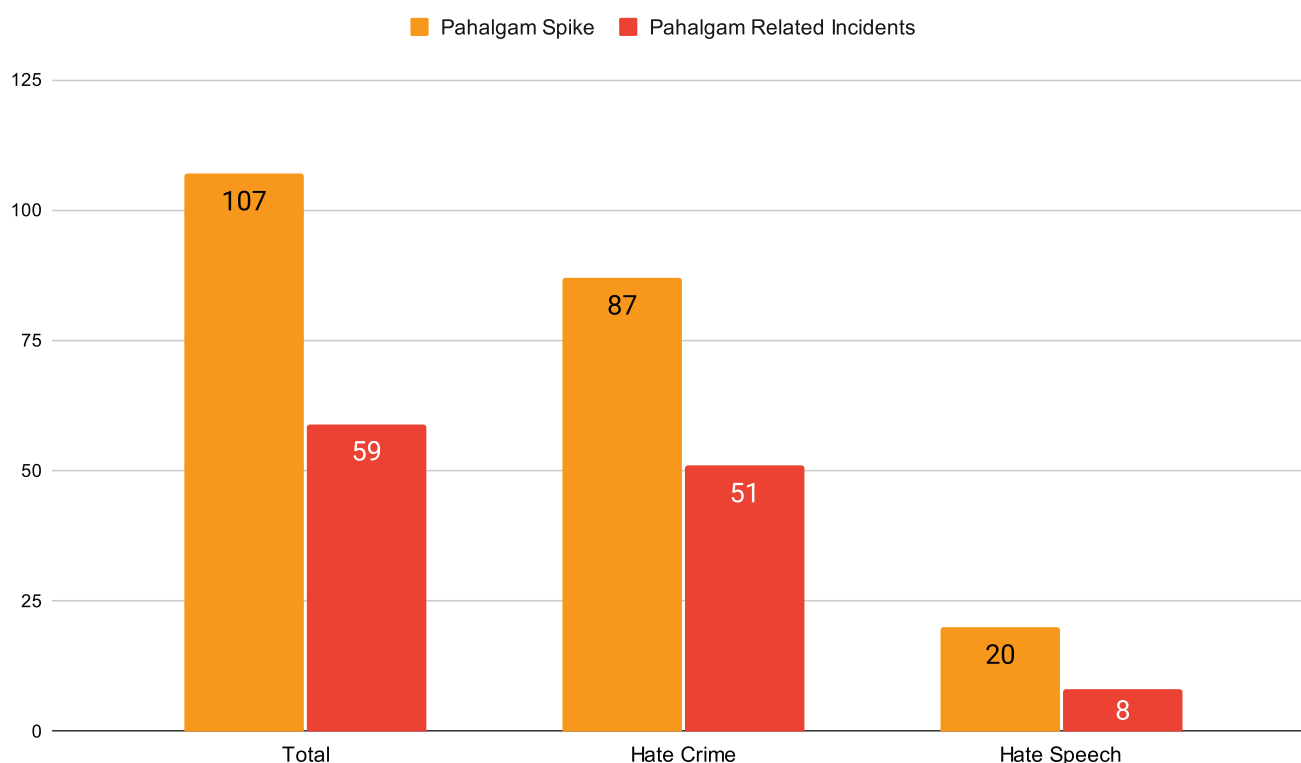


Three Hindu monks were attacked because they looked like Muslims. 2 Hindu customers of a Muslim chicken vendor were assaulted when the Muslim vendor and his shop were attacked by cow vigilantes. One Hindu vendor was assaulted because his stall was alongside the stalls of Muslim vendors, who were targeted by BJP workers in Mumbai during the spike following the Pahalgam incident. One Hindu accompanying a Muslim driver was assaulted when the Muslim driver was attacked by cow vigilantes for transporting an ox. One Hindu faced harassment for employing a Muslim contractor, who also faced verbal abuse, to do construction work in an ashram.

A total of 17 Hindu women faced right-wing attacks. 16 females were targeted due to their involvement in interfaith relationships with Muslim men. The remaining one faced harassment because she sold her house to a Muslim woman.

Pahalgam

The Pahalgam Terror Attack and the following war between India and Pakistan created a situation of increased communal tensions, which led to a spike in hate crime incidents targeting Muslims. The first hate crime incident directly caused by the Attack was recorded on 23 April. The spike in hate crimes was from 23 April to 6 May 2025, while the spike in hate speech lasted longer and ended on 1 June. During this spike, 87 incidents of hate crimes and 20 incidents of hate speeches were recorded. Out of the 87 hate crimes, only 51 were explicitly related to the Pahalgam Terror Attack, while the rest 36 occurred in relation to Pahalgam. The figures reflect the hostility of these 13 days, where at least 7 hate crime incidents occurred each day. 136 Muslims were affected during the spike.



In the case of hate speeches, only 8 were related to the Pahalgam Terror Attack. The first 5 occurred in the initial days after the attack. However, the later emergence of the trope at the end of May and beginning of June reflects the entrenchment of the Pahalgam Terror Attack in the jargon of right-wing outfits and its role in reviving the image of Muslim Terrorists/ Islamic Terrorism for right-wing outfits.



(Muslim owned businesses attacked in Ambala in April during a rally against Pahalgam Terror Attack)



(Posters banning the entry of Muslims on the campus of an educational institute appeared in West Bengal)



(Cow vigilante group threatened to avenge the Pahalgam Terror Attack by killing 2600 Muslims. They had already killed the Muslim man on the left.)



(Hindu Raksha Dal threatened Kashmiris to leave Uttarakhand)

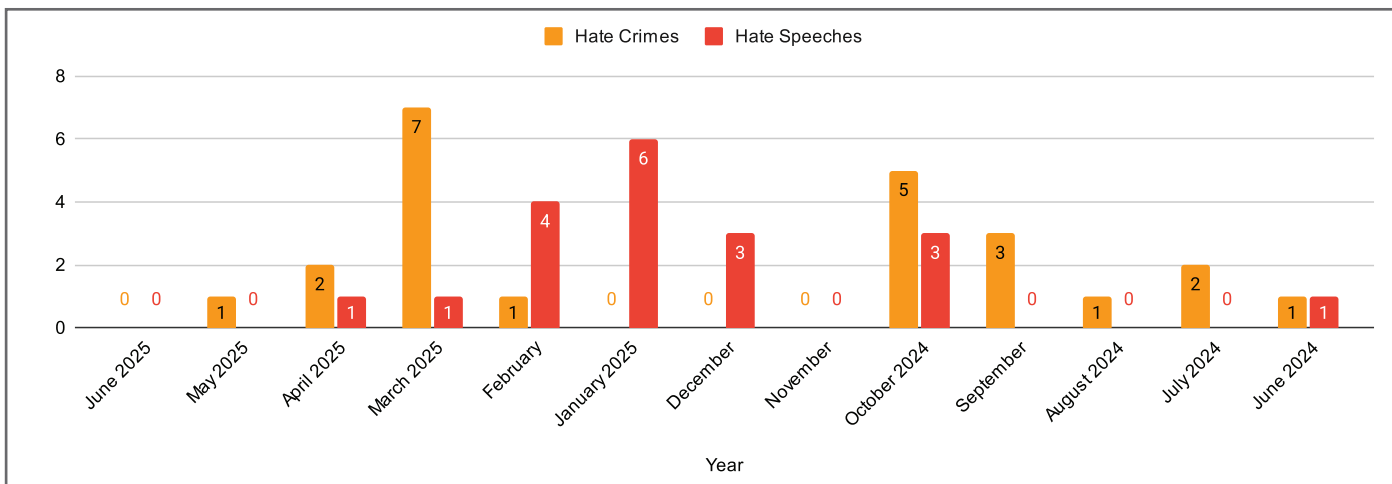


(Kashmiri shawl vendors were assaulted in Mussorie and warned to leave the area)

Elections Analysis

5 states went through State Assembly Elections from 7 June 2024 to 7 June 2025, and one state conducted Councillor Elections. In 4 out of these 6 elections, the BJP won with a landslide victory. The hate speech and hate crime incidents in these states before and after the date of polling were recorded and analyzed. In 4 election-bound states, there were significant departures from the normal range of hate crime incidents recorded. These states were Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand. The first 3 conducted state legislative assembly elections, while the latter one conducted councillor elections. These departures indicate a pattern of careful plotting of hate crimes and hate speech incidents towards creating an atmosphere favorable for the BJP during elections. However, in one of the states where departures emerged, the BJP lost. But its victory in the other 3 indicates that statistically, this approach works for the BJP.

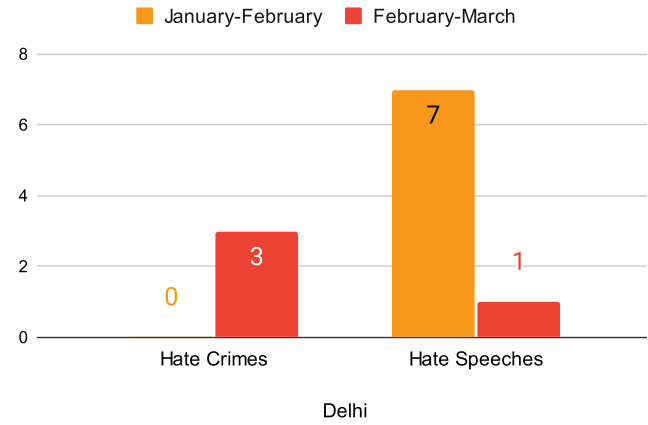
Delhi



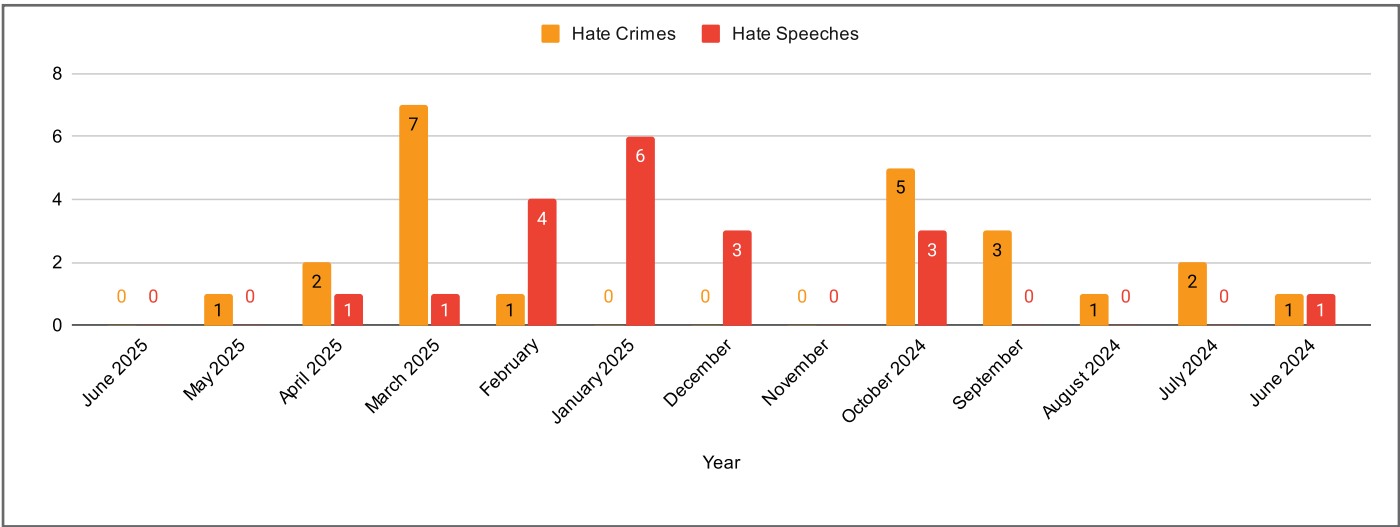
Delhi went to the polls in February, and the election result was declared on 8 February for the state legislative elections. 3 hate crimes were traced in the first month after the election result. There was a 66% spike in the number of hate crimes. Afterwards, the spike continued in the whole of March with 5 hate crimes recorded in March post 8 March. The spike however, appeared to decrease considerably in April with only 2 hate crimes, and only 1 in May. No hate crimes were recorded till 7 June for the month of June. There were spikes in October, September, and July, which appeared to be motivated by local anomalies.

7 hate speeches were traced in the month preceding the elections. But no departure emerged. There were 5 hate speeches in December and 3 in October. There are spikes, but

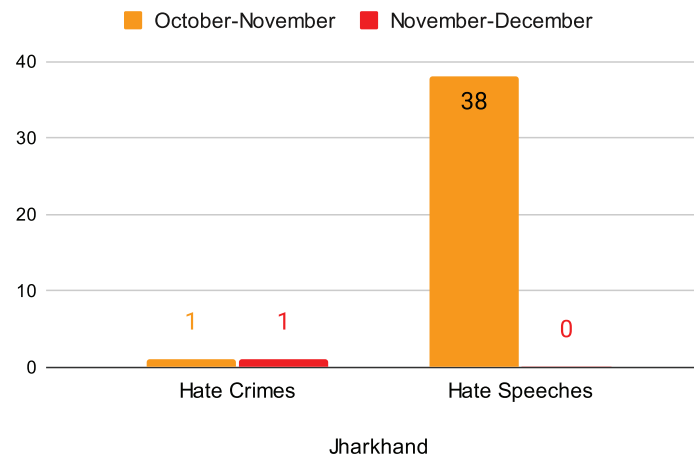
not a pattern. A significant slowdown in hate speech after the election was recorded, with the occurrence of hate speech decreasing to one per month. All hate speeches were made by individuals associated with the BJP. 7 of the hate speeches were given by individuals from the BJP who are Chief Ministers, and one was made by a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), after the elections.



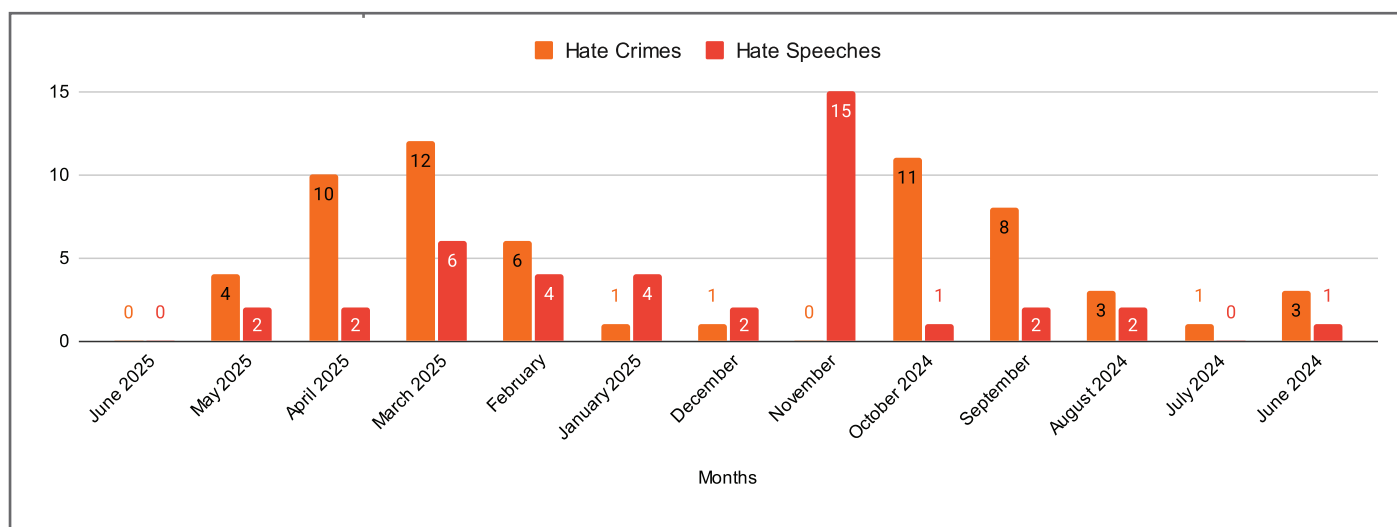
Jharkhand



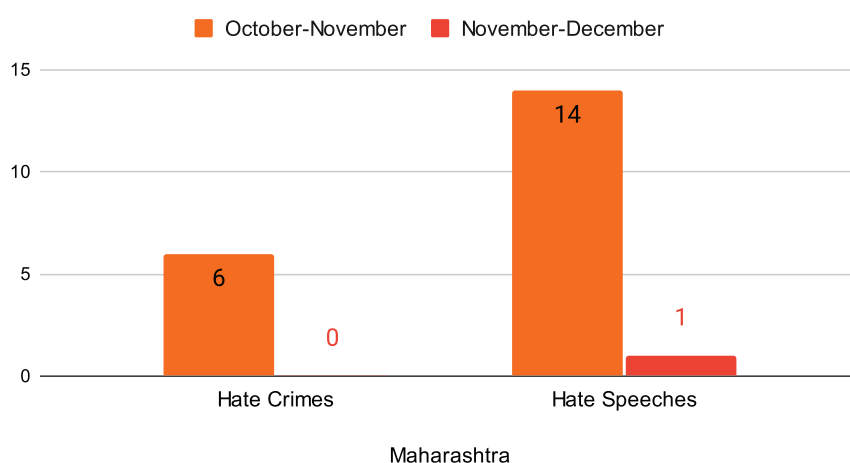
Jharkhand went to the polls in November for state assembly elections, and the election result was declared on 23 November. No spike in hate crimes was recorded either before or after the election result. However, a significant spike in hate speech incidents was recorded in the month preceding the elections. 35 hate speech incidents were recorded. All the speeches were made by individuals associated with the BJP. Of these, 17 were made by Chief Ministers, 3 were made by the Prime Minister, and 18 were made by other elected officials associated with the BJP.



Maharashtra



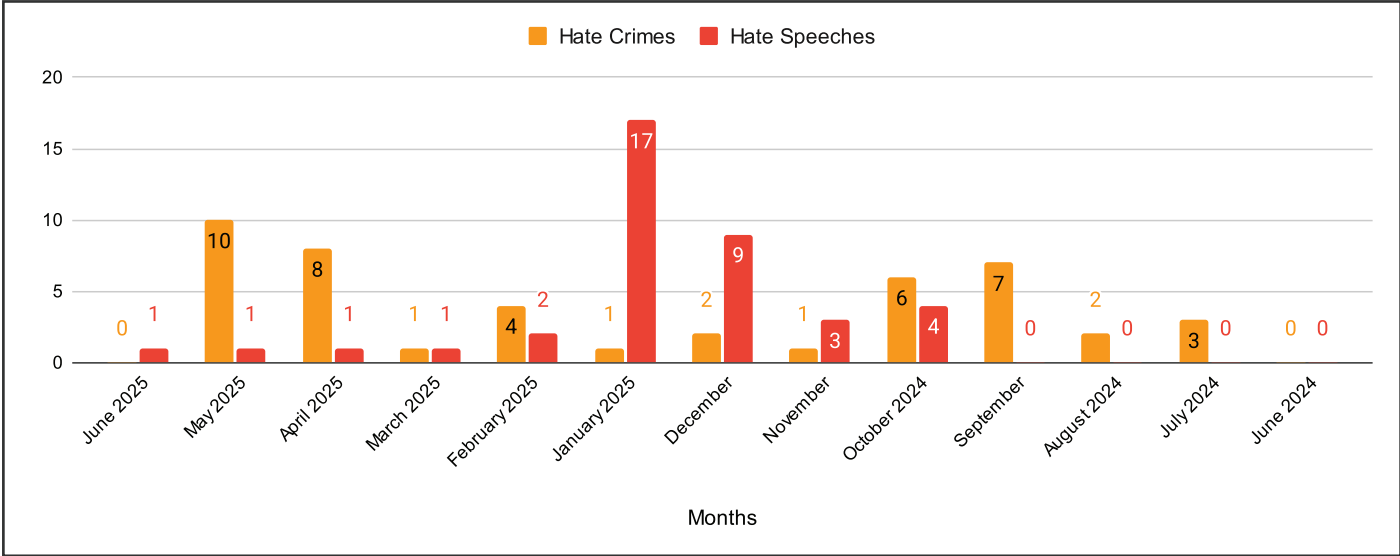
Maharashtra, like Jharkhand, went to the polls in November, with the result declared on 23 November. In a pattern similar to the one observed in Jharkhand, 14 hate speeches were recorded in the month preceding the elections. 10 of the 14 hate speech incidents were made by individuals associated with the BJP. These



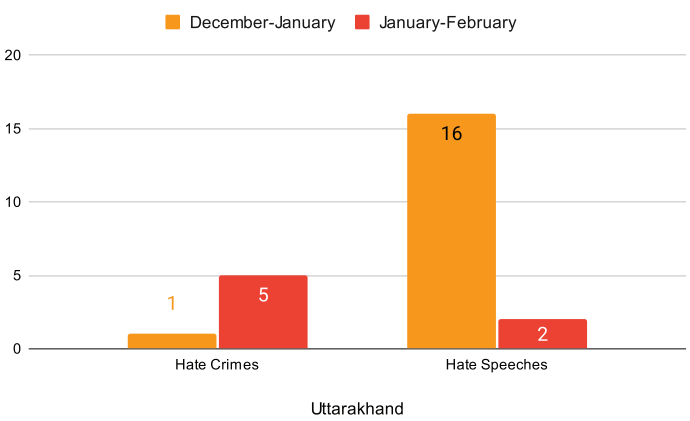
included 6 Chief Ministers and 5 elected individuals of the BJP. 3 other hate speech incidents were made by Suresh Chavahanke of Sudarshan News, and one was made by an individual from the Maharashtra Shiv Sena. Most of the speeches made by the BJP centered around Jihad Conspiracies, Waqf Board, and Bangladeshi/Rohingya/Infiltrator. Of the other themes that cropped up in hate speeches, the one that picked up suddenly and kept repeating was of Aurangzeb/Historical Muslim Figures.

There was a spike in hate crimes leading up to the elections, not afterward. October recorded 11 incidents, the second-highest number of hate crimes recorded in Maharashtra in the whole year. In two incidents, the involvement of the Bajrang Dal was recorded. The other four appear not to involve any right-wing outfits.

Uttarakhand



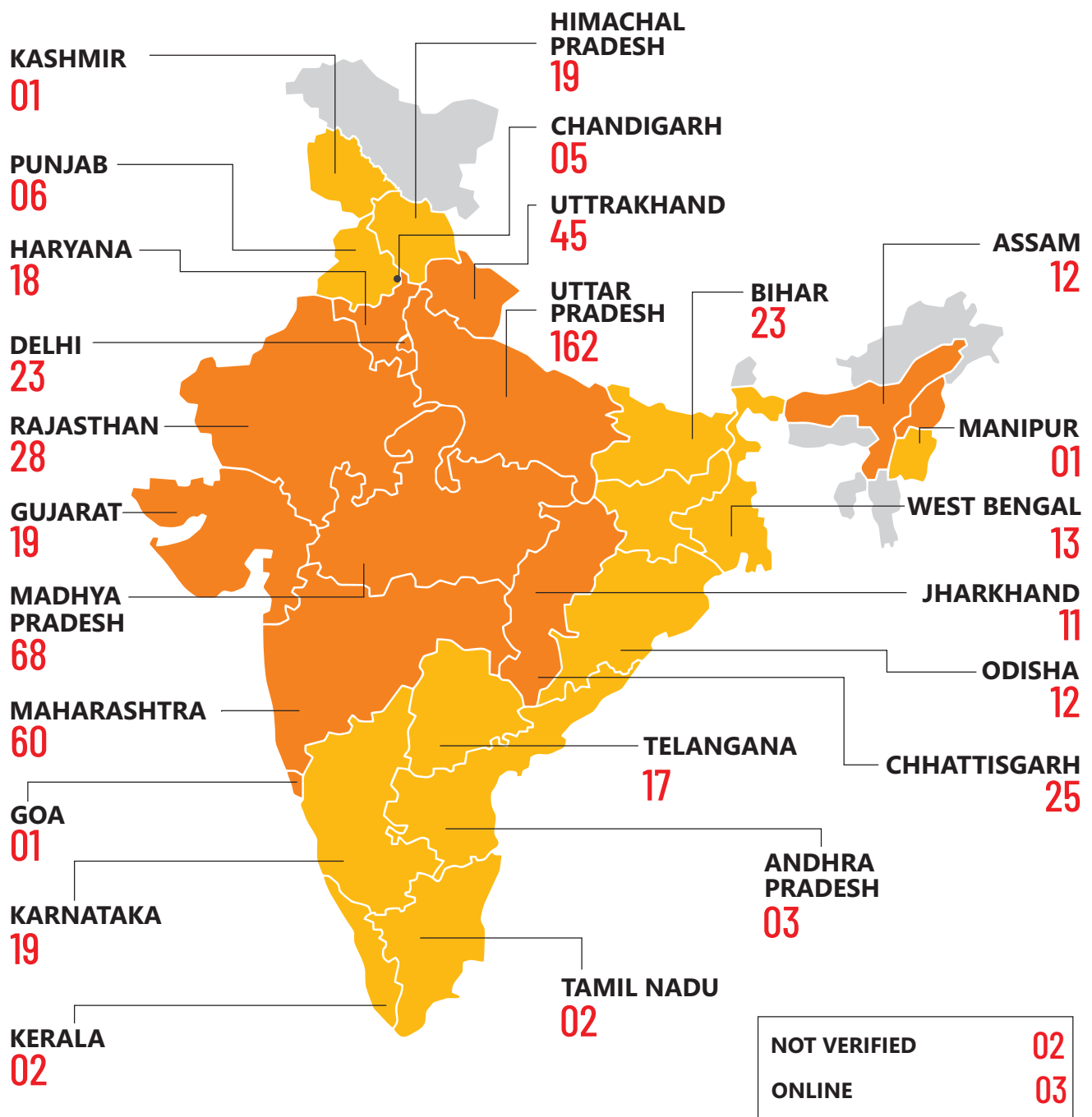
Uttarakhand went to the polls in January for the Councillor Elections. 16 hate speeches were recorded in the month before the elections. Before this month, in December, hate speech incidents spiked from a mellow 3 in November to 9. The spike increased further in January to 17, when the state went to polls, and would later go on to subsidize gradually to one hate speech a month after elections, beginning in March. 2 hate crimes were recorded in the month succeeding the elections, reflecting a sharp decrease of 50% from the month when the state went to the poll. 4 hate crimes were recorded then.



Hate Crimes

State-Wise Breakdown

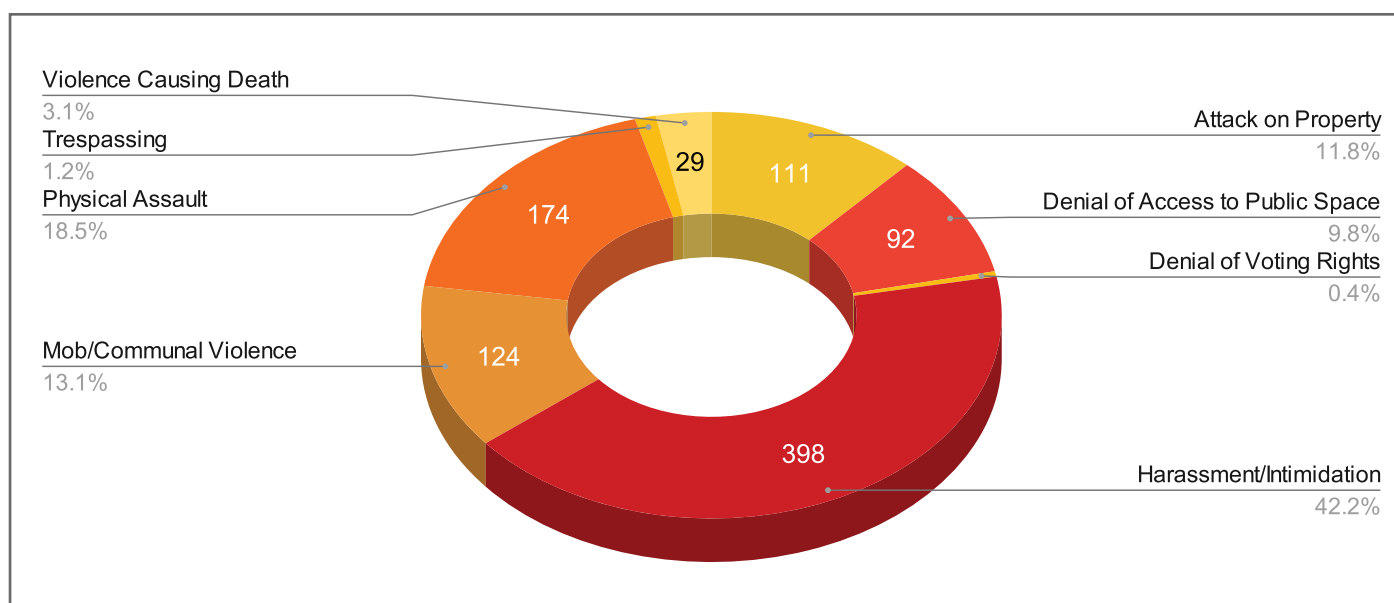
602 hate crime incidents occurred in India. These affected 25 geographical areas in India, i.e., 23 states and 2 Union Territories. 11 of these have a BJP government at present. We could not determine where the remaining 7 hate crimes occurred. This is because five occurred



online and could not be traced substantively, while the remaining two did occur, as was confirmed by news reportage, but they did not reveal the location of the incident.

Of the 602, 267 involved right-wing outfits, and 38 involved right-wing outfits that could not be identified. In 81 of the incidents, we could record that FIRs were filed. This is only 13% of the hate crimes. It cannot be said if this figure is conclusive, but it is indicative of the worsening atmosphere Indian Muslims are undergoing at the moment and a lag in the criminal justice system.

Categories of Hate Crimes



Hate crimes can rarely be attributed to one single category. This is because often, they involve multiple offences. Hence, when a death occurs because of a hate crime, it would involve assault, which is in the category, but it could also involve mob/communal violence or trespassing. Hence, one hate crime can be attributed to multiple categories. This is why there are more hate crimes in the above graph than the 602 hate crimes that occurred in the year. Of these, most were crimes of harassment/intimidation, followed by crimes of physical assault, and then crimes of mob/communal violence. 29 deaths occurred in the year, following physical assault. 28 of them were men and 1 was a woman. All were Muslims.

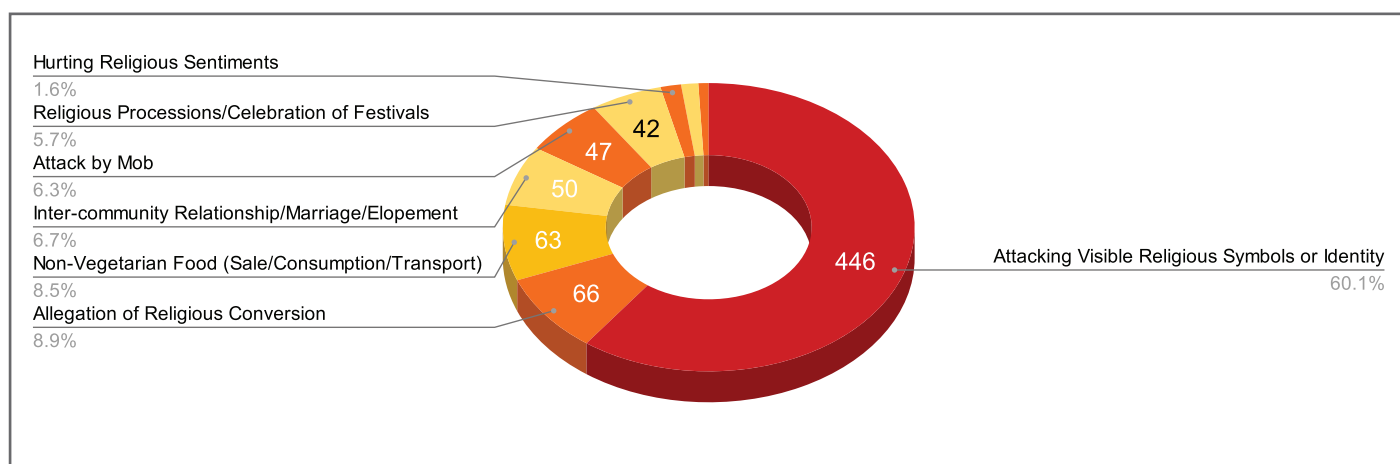
398 crimes that harassed or intimidated religious minorities were recorded in the year. 214 of these involved organizations and political parties. The activities of Bajrang Dal, Bharatiya Janata Party, and Vishwa Hindu Parishad were particularly conspicuous and most repeated, as well. More than one of these was involved in a hate crime multiple times, highlighting the intermixing of right-wing outfits with other organizations in perpetrating hate crime incidents. Uttar Pradesh was the worst-affected, followed closely by Madhya Pradesh. Uttarakhand recorded merely 33 entries of harassment or intimidation. However, activities of right-wing outfits, including Devbhoomi Sangharsh Samiti in Uttarakhand, picked up in May and died within a few days. But with the sexual assault case of a minor girl involving a

Muslim man in Nainital and the Sanjauli mosque now being labeled as a disputed place of worship, Uttarakhand is emerging as a hotspot.

173, the second most incidents of hate crime, involved some degree of physical violence. In 119, the perpetrators targeted the visible religiosity of religious minorities. While in 32, the primary cause of the hate crime was the sale/consumption/transport of non-vegetarian food. In 17 incidents of hate crime, the primary reason for the crime was inter-community relationship/marriage/elopement.

The third most common category of hate crime incidents involved mob/communal violence. The most affected states were Uttar Pradesh with 29 incidents, Madhya Pradesh with 17 incidents, and Chhattisgarh with 11 incidents. All these states were BJP-ruled states. The primary cause here was attacking the visible religiosity of religious minorities, followed by the sale/consumption/transport of non-vegetarian food, and allegations of religious conversions. These causes reveal how the right-wing apparatus is attacking the psyche of the majority community by targeting their fears and demonizing Muslims as well as Christians.

Context of Hate Crimes

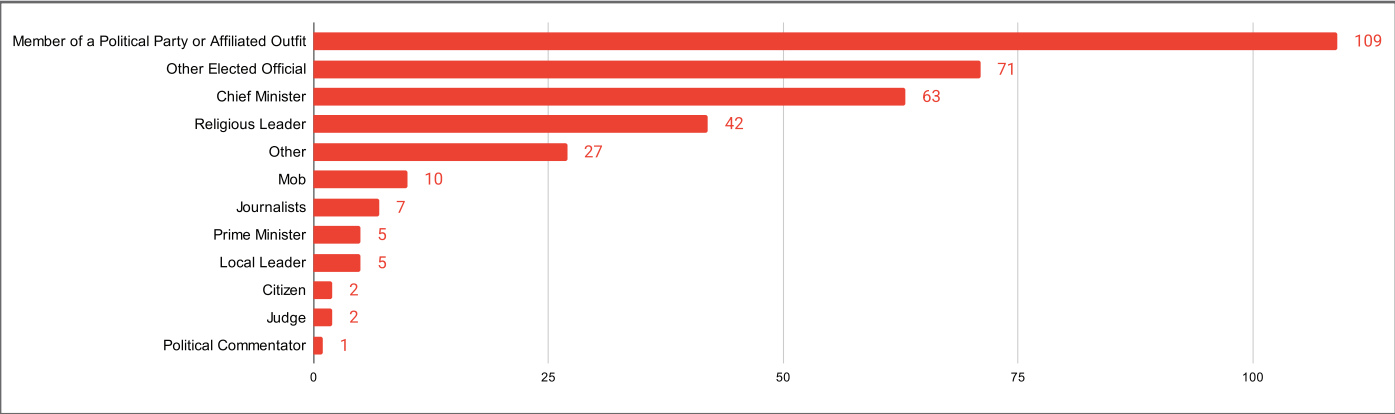


Hate crimes rarely, if ever, happen in isolation. They are built up by context. There could be a triggering factor, such as the discovery of an inter-community relationship in a public space, or it could be a sequence of events, such as vandalism of multiple properties after an allegation is made and the accused is in jail. Context could also be historical, as is the case in matters of disputed structures. A hate crime could then involve multiple contexts; therefore, the total of the above figures is more than the total of 602 hate crimes of the year.

Hate Speech

A total of 345 hate speech incidents occurred in the year. The hate speech incidents, while fewer than the hate crimes, account for much more for the vitriolic atmosphere in India for religious minorities. They build the atmosphere, they sow issues, and they lend a certain confidence-building to the right-wing outfits involved in hate crime incidents. It also filters the malice for minorities to the masses.

Who is responsible for hate speech?

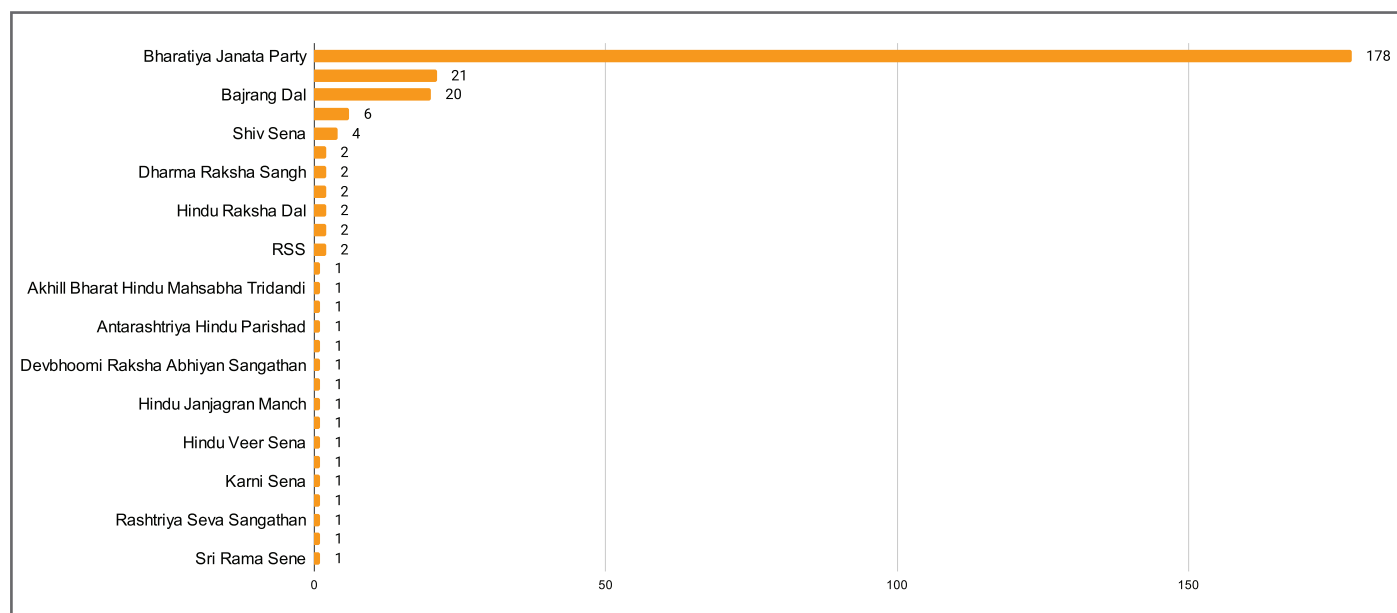


345 hate speech incidents were recorded in the year. 109 were made by a member of a political party or affiliated outfit, of which the BJP, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and Bajrang Dal were responsible for most. 139 hate speech incidents were made by individuals elected to public offices—5 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 63 by Chief Ministers of BJP governments, and 71 by other elected individuals. It is concerning that this year also witnessed two judges making hate speech, as well as a governor. In fact, one of the elected officials who made hate speech was a sarpanch. The seeping of hate in offices that are supposed to be removed from politics and expected to uphold justice is disturbing and also an indication of how much malice for minorities has seeped into the institutions.

Member of a Political Party or Affiliated Outfit	109
Prime Minister	5
Chief Minister	63
Other Elected Official	71
Governor	1
Religious Leader	42
Other	27
Mob	10
Journalists	7

Local Leader	5
Citizen	2
Judge	2
Political Commentator	1

Organisational affiliations of the perpetrator



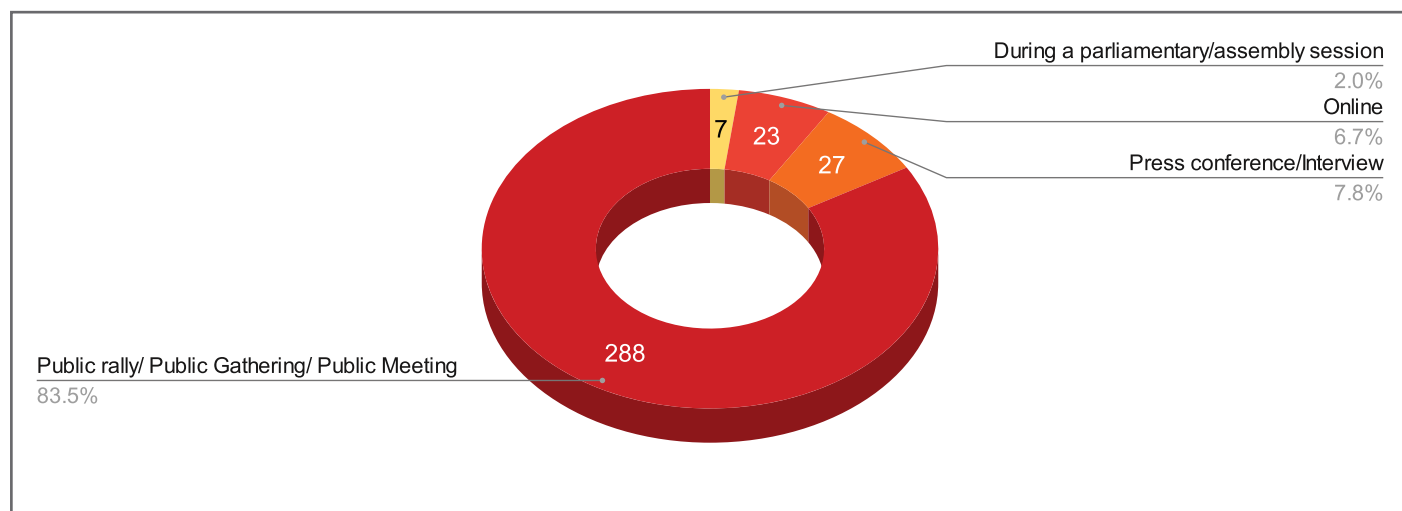
257 hate speech incidents were made by members of a political party or affiliated outfit. BJP topped the list with 178 hate speech incidents, followed by Vishwa Hindu Parishad with 21 hate speech incidents and Bajrang Dal with 20. While other outfits seemed to be making hate speech incidents in isolation, with one or two incidents, Sudarshan News made 6 hate speech incidents. While other hate speech incidents are almost all recorded and circulated online, these hate speech incidents made by Suresh Chavhanke of Sudarshan News were also televised and streamed online. They, hence, spread more than the average hate speech.

Bharatiya Janata Party	178
VHP	21
Bajrang Dal	20
Sudarshan News	6
Shiv Sena	4
Bhagwa Kranti Morcha	2
Dharma Raksha Sangh	2
Durga Vahini	2
Hindu Raksha Dal	2
Kali Sena	2
RSS	2
Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha	1
Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha Tridandi	1

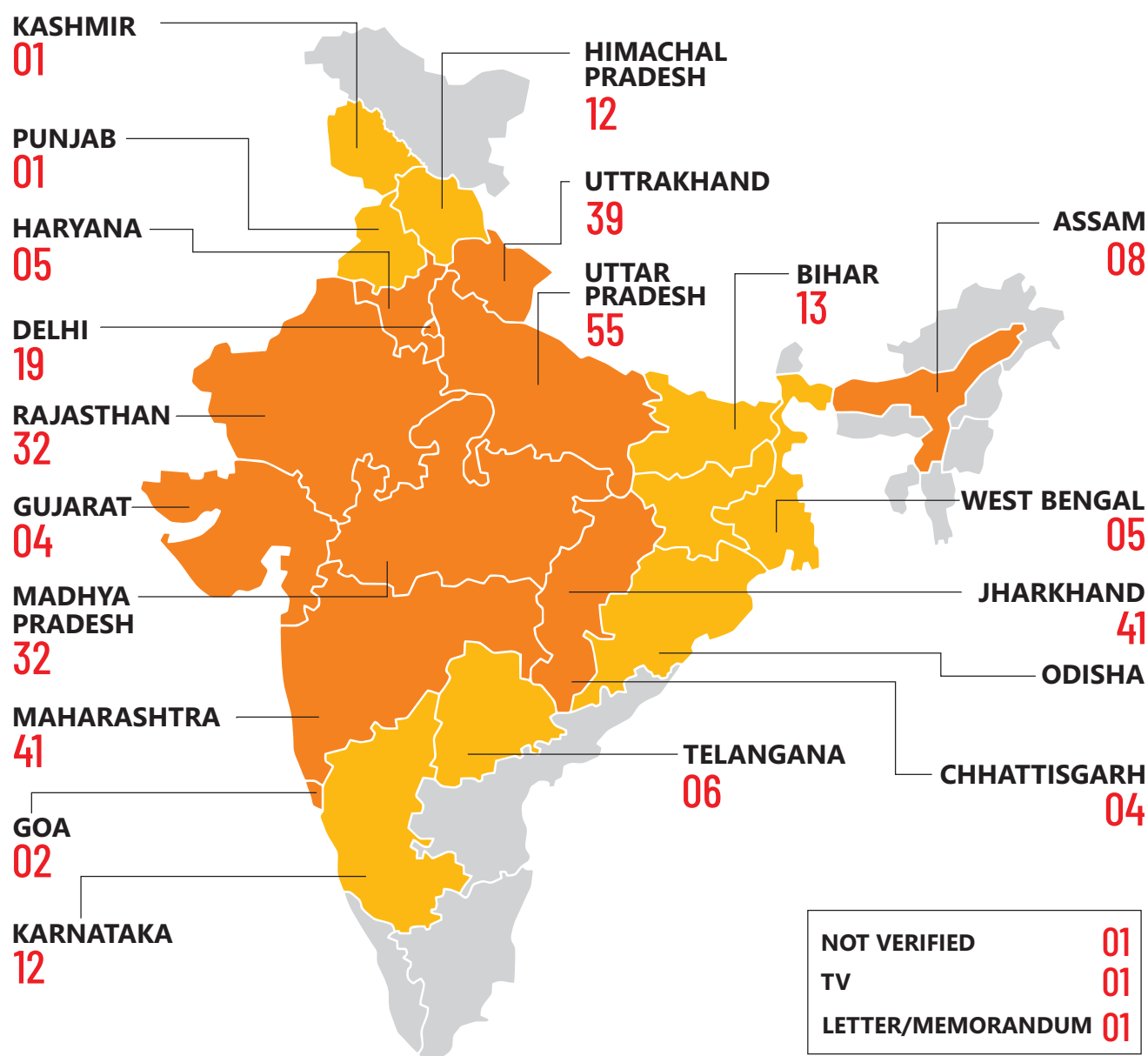
Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad	1
Antarashtriya Hindu Parishad	1
Congress	1
Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan Sangathan	1
Hindu Jagran Manch	1
Hindu Janjagran Manch	1
Hindu Sena	1
Hindu Veer Sena	1
Hindu Yuva Vahini	1
Karni Sena	1
Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)	1
Rashtriya Seva Sangathan	1
Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Sangharsh	1
Sri Rama Sene	1

Where was the Hate Speech made?

288 of the 345 hate speech incidents were made in public gatherings/rallies/meetings, while 7 were made during sessions of parliament or assembly. 23 were made online, and 27 were made in press conferences or interviews.

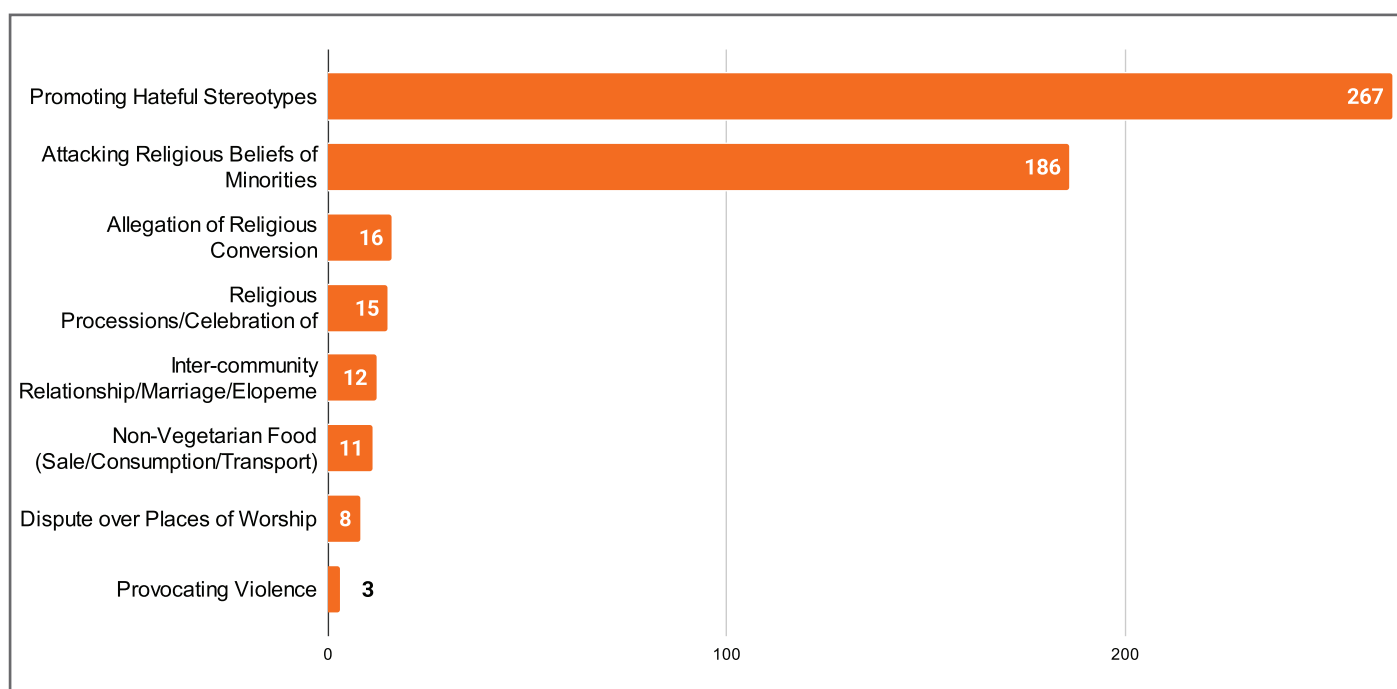


State-Wise Breakdown



BJP-ruled states bore the brunt of hate speech incidents. 11 states ruled by the BJP recorded hate speech incidents. Uttar Pradesh recorded 55, followed closely by 41 in both Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Punjab and Kashmir recorded the least amount of hate speech incidents. Both recorded 1. While the hate speech incident in Kashmir was made by a member of a right-wing outfit, the hate speech in Punjab was made by a Congress leader who threatened a pastor and declared that prayers like these would not be permitted in the locality. This was recorded by people who seemed to be accompanying him, and only one recording of this hate speech incident could be traced.

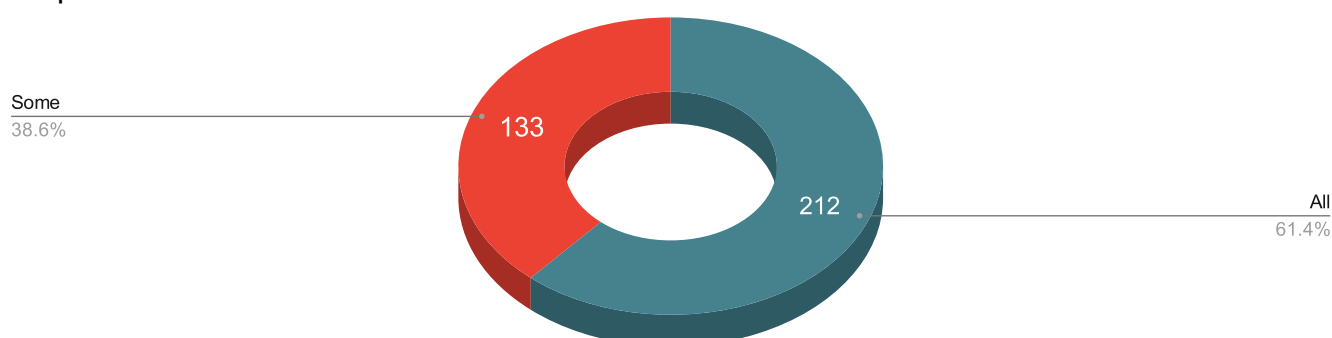
Context of Hate Speech



The recorded 345 hate speech incidents in the year were categorized according to the context detected in them. The context here refers to the themes and arguments deployed by the perpetrators while making the hate speech. One hate speech can have multiple contexts. It can promote hateful stereotypes and then provoke violence, or boast of obtaining a disputed place of worship, attack the religious beliefs of minorities, and then provoke violence. Hence, the graph above has 518 hate speech incidents. Of these, 257 promoted hateful stereotypes, 186 attacked the religious beliefs of minorities, and 16 made allegations of religious conversion. While only 3 provoked violence, it is essential to remember that hate speeches lead to hate crimes even when they do not call for it explicitly.

Analysis of Hate Speech Incidents

Of the 345 hate speech incidents, 212 fulfilled all requirements of inciting discrimination, hostility, or violence. This means that 212 hate speech incidents were made in an environment conducive to leading to targeted action against religious minorities. The remaining 133 did not meet all thresholds and, as such, might not lead to violence. This means that 61% of hate speech incidents lead to violence.



Hate Crime Report

Mapping First Year of Modi's Third Government

Jun 2024 - Jun 2025



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