



RAJIV GANDHI  
INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY STUDIES

Volume: 01

Issue: 01

# COMMUNALISM WATCH

Date: 01-15 October 2014

---

**Top Stories:** Love Jihad, Garba, Cow Slaughter

---

**Compiled by: RGICS**

Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi

*Only for Private Circulation*

Follow RGICS @ <http://www.rgics.org/>, <http://twitter.com/RGICS>, <http://rgics.blogspot.in/>

**Disclaimer:** The articles are summaries of the original article and the headlines have been changed in certain cases. For the original articles, please click on the link given below the article.

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
------------------	--	--

## COMMUNAL VIOLENCE/TENSION

### LUCKNOW RIOT:

#### Communal Violence in Indiranagar

Haji Ghayas has been carrying out animal sacrifice for Eid ul Zuha for the past several years but this time Shailu Awasthi (A Hindu neighbor of Haji Ghayas) and some local residents objected to the practice. Late evening, however, rumour mongering over sacrifice of camel triggered tension again and groups, belong to two communities, pelted stones at each other and at least six people's sustained injuries.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/Communal-violence-in-Indiranagar/articleshow/44635652.cms>

Date accessed: 8/10/14

Villagers and members of political parties (SP and BJP)

7/10/2014  
Indira Nagar,  
Lucknow  
(Uttar Pradesh)

### VADODARA RIOT:

#### Common Thread in Gujarat Clashes: VHP 'Aiding' Police

The residents living in affecting areas blamed an alleged nexus between local activist of VHP and a police official. Clashes in Vadodara and Ahmedabad were reported, when police detained an alleged resident. It is said that police were tipped off by VHP activist. The VHP had submitted a representation to Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Shivanand Jha, claiming that his force was not doing enough to prevent cow slaughter and held protests against cow slaughter in communally sensitive area, with activists.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/gujarat/common-thread-in-gujarat-clashes-vhp-aiding-police/>

Date accessed : 9/10/2014

VHP (Gau Rakshak) and Hindu Asmita Hitrakshak Samiti, Builders, Criminals

25-30 September  
2014  
Vadodara ,  
Ahmedabad, Godhra  
& Narmada  
(Gujarat)

#### PUCL Fact Finding Hold Police –Politicians-Criminals Nexus Responsible for Vadodara Riot

A report by People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) has held growing influence of BJP and right wing Hindutva groups over police and administration; and nexus between police , politicians and criminals as the 'chief factors' contributing to the recent communal tension in Vadodara.

<http://twocircles.net/2014oct12/1413095111.html#.VDzgcvn1SFU>

Date Accessed : 14/10/2014

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
<p><b>In Haryana, BJP Promises Maximum Punishment for Cow Slaughter</b>  Haryana has banned cow slaughter under the Punjab Prohibition of Cow-Slaughter Act, 1956. It invites rigorous imprisonment of up to five years. Ram Bilas Sharma , BJP Haryana chief, promised severe punishment for cow slaughter. As of now there are no reliable estimates of cow killings. However, rumours of cow killings in India deepen rift between communities. It is clear that religious issues are been used by political parties during polls.  <a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/specials/assembly-elections-2014/haryana-news/Will-treat-cow-slaughter-like-murder-vows-Haryana-BJP-chief/articleshow/44162118.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/specials/assembly-elections-2014/haryana-news/Will-treat-cow-slaughter-like-murder-vows-Haryana-BJP-chief/articleshow/44162118.cms</a>  Date accessed : 15/10/2014</p>	<p>BJP</p>	<p>Mewat (Haryana)</p>
<p><b>Communal Tension in Ujjain</b>  According to a report some youngsters objected on DJ sounds during the Durga idol procession because Namaz was being offered in the Mosque. After that, groups of two communities indulged in verbal duel and panic gripped the area .  <a href="http://freepressjournal.in/admn-on-toes-following-communal-tension/">http://freepressjournal.in/admn-on-toes-following-communal-tension/</a>  Date accessed : 8/10/2014</p>	<p>Anti social element, religious Community, Civil society : teenager /youth</p>	<p>6/10/2014  Ujjain ( Madhya Pradesh)</p>
<p><b>Communal Tension Continues in Bawana, North Delhi</b>  Some anti-social elements tried to instigate Hindu-Muslim violence. Groups of young men were seen parading certain areas in cars and motorcycles with police protection in the name of preventing cow slaughter. The next day, on 3 October, Hindu youths created a road jam. Posters appeared in the area calling for war to protect cow by Hindu Krantikari Sena. The situation in Bawana area of North-West Delhi became sensitive after anti-social elements instigation.  <a href="http://www.milligazette.com/news/11075-communal-tension-continues-in-bawana-north-delhi">http://www.milligazette.com/news/11075-communal-tension-continues-in-bawana-north-delhi</a>  Date accessed : 7/10/2014</p>	<p>Hindu Krantikari Sena  BJP MP</p>	<p>2/10/2014  Bawana (Delhi)</p>
<p><b>Report on Alleged Plan of Cow Slaughter in JJ Colony Bawana: IFTU,PMS,PDSU</b>  A team comprising of Indian Federation of Trade Unions, (IFTU), Pragatisheel Mahila Sangathan, Progressive Democratic Students' Union, visited JJ Colony Bawana and made investigations into the reports of alleged planned cow slaughter and intimidation of Muslims. It is said by team that the allegations of cow slaughter is bogus as no cows were found. The Hindu krantikari sena did not spring up overnight and is clearly linked to the BJP as the BJP MP has not taken any action against it.  <a href="http://kafila.org/2014/10/06/report-on-alleged-plan-of-cow-slaughter-in-jj-colony-bawana-iftupmpdsu/">http://kafila.org/2014/10/06/report-on-alleged-plan-of-cow-slaughter-in-jj-colony-bawana-iftupmpdsu/</a>  Date accessed : 8/10/2014</p>		

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
------------------	--	--

## CREATING COMMUNAL DISHARMONY

### **LOVE JIHAD:**

#### **U-turn by Meerut Girl on ‘Love Jihad’**

The recent backtracking of the woman from Meerut on the charges of gang rape and conversion has weakened the case. Denying rumours of “love jihad,” a 22-year-old woman from Meerut said that she had run away with a Muslim man out of her own free will. She approached the police complaining of a threat from her family, and in a written statement, denied rape or conversion. Now, denial gives lie to the BJP claim of ‘love jihad’ and there has been no reaction from BJP and RSS groups.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/uturn-by-meerut-girl-on-love-jihad/article6494076.ece>

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/meerut-gangrape-victim-confesses-to-eloping-will-hindutva-groups-drop-love-jihad-now-1754339.html>

Date accessed : 14/10/2014

#### **Girl Says BJP Man Gave Her Family Rs 25,000**

After the victim changed her statement saying she was forced to give a false statement of gang rape and forced into conversion by her family members, she has now claims that a BJP party official paid her family Rs 25,000 and had offered them more money to stick to their stand. According to a report in the Times of India, the girl named BJP's Vineet Agarwal as the person who gave her family the money. The girl's father also admitted that Hindu groups helped them with money.

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/meerut-love-jihad-case-woman-says-bjp-man-gave-her-family-rs-25000-1757117.html>

Date accessed : 15/10/2014

BJP

12/10/2014

Meerut  
(Uttar Pradesh)

### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

#### **Social Media are New Riot Triggers**

Social media can become a potential weapon in the hand of those instigating communal violence. This was proved by the recent violence which erupted in Gujrat over a morphed image was posted on a social site. Similarly videos are also being posted to incite people.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Nasty-posts-on-social-media-are-new-riot-triggers/articleshow/44444221.cms>

Date Accessed:7/10/2014

Anti Social Elements

(Gujarat)

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
<p><b>Save Cattle from Slaughter Get Rs 3,000 Offer by an Organisation Might Create Tension, Says SB Intelligence Input</b></p> <p>Right wing groups rake up cow protection issue and announced a reward of Rs3,000 per saved cattle. It has gone viral on social media , whats App etc. that are new triggers for nasty posts and could affect law and order.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-save-cattle-from-slaughter-get-rs-3000-offer-by-an-organisation-might-create-tension-says-sb-intel-input-2023014">http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-save-cattle-from-slaughter-get-rs-3000-offer-by-an-organisation-might-create-tension-says-sb-intel-input-2023014</a></p> <p>Date accessed: 9/10/2014</p>	<p>Ahinsa Sangh, Vishwamaitri Trust,Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Other Hindu organisations; Gauraksha Samiti and Jeevdaya Mandali</p>	<p>Mumbai (Maharashtra)</p>
<p><b>INTER-RELIGIOUS MARRIAGES:</b></p> <p><b>At Community Meet, Cleric Tells Jain Girls Not to Marry Outside of Sect</b></p> <p>A congregation of Jains exhorted its young girls on Sunday not to marry outside their community, with a preacher outlining the 'ills' of love marriage. A pamphlet was also distributed among community members before the event, asking questions such as: Is your daughter not obeying you? Does your daughter want to go for inter-caste marriage? Do you want to save your daughter from a polluted environment?</p> <p><a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indore/at-community-meet-cleric-tells-jain-girls-not-to-marry-outside-of-sect/article1-1274770.aspx">http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indore/at-community-meet-cleric-tells-jain-girls-not-to-marry-outside-of-sect/article1-1274770.aspx</a></p> <p>Date Accessed : 14/10/2014</p> <p><b>Advocates, Right-wing Activists Prevent Inter-religious Marriage in Bhopal</b></p> <p>The Meerut girl denial proved the BJP wrong. But again another right wing organisation is trying next ground for their propaganda in Bhopal. A few advocates and Sanskriti Bachao Manch (SBM) joined hands to prevent a marriage between a Muslim boy and a Hindu girl. In a recent incident in Bhopal Reena Uikey, 22, and Shoaib Khan, 25, were looking for a notary. It is said that some advocates tipped of SBM activists who reached the district court premises and posted volunteers at all exit points. Right wing activist are claiming that it is a case of Love Jihad.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/advocates-right-wing-activists-prevent-inter-religious-marriage-in-bhopal/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/advocates-right-wing-activists-prevent-inter-religious-marriage-in-bhopal/</a></p> <p>Date Accessed : 15/10/2014</p>	<p>Jain Community Organisation</p> <p>Bajrang Dal, VHP, Sanskriti Bachao Manch (SBM), Advocates of Bhopal District Court</p>	<p>Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)</p> <p>13/10/2014 Bhopal, (Madhya Pradesh)</p>

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
------------------	--	--

<p><b>Protests in MP After Christian Weds Hindu, Police Declare Marriage ‘Invalid’</b></p> <p>Joseph Pawar (a Christian man ), who is in his 20s, and Ayushi Wani (a Hindu woman ), 19, reportedly eloped and married at an Arya Samaj temple in Bhopal on September 28. They were traced by the police to Pavagadh in Gujarat after the girl’s parents filed a complaint and the Hindu Jagran Manch and other right-wing organisations threatened to launch an agitation. The activists of Hindu Jagran Manch said they wanted Joseph booked for allegedly luring Ayushi into marrying him.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/protests-in-mp-after-christian-weds-hindu-police-declare-marriage-invalid/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/protests-in-mp-after-christian-weds-hindu-police-declare-marriage-invalid/</a></p> <p>Date accessed : 8/10/2014</p>	<p>RSS and Hindu Jagran Manch</p>	<p>1/10/2014 Alirajpur, (Madhya Pradesh)</p>
--	-----------------------------------	--

## DISTORTING FACTS AND HISTORY

<p><b>In Praise of Hemu: A Medieval King reveals the True Intent of Hindutva History</b></p> <p>At a seminar organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-backed Akhil Bharatiya Itihaas Sankalan Yojana (ABISY) to offer tribute to ‘A Forgotten Hindu Emperor, Maharaja Hemchandra Vikramaditya’ with Bharatiya Janata Party leader Subramanian Swamy made another controversial statement calling for burning of their books. ABISY president said, "our history has been distorted by Western, Muslim, Communist and Secularist historians. Subramaniam Swamy in his nakedly communal speech says "it was due to the struggle of people like Hemu that Muslims and Christians failed to convert “80 percent of Hindus. That is the reason ISIS wants to come back to India. To finish the unfinished task.” The communalization of this chapter goes well beyond Hemu’s life. The symposium expresses outrage over the alleged encroachment of Hemu’s memorial in Panipat. “It is a Muslim dominated area and they have built a dargah there”.</p> <p><a href="http://www.firstpost.com/india/in-praise-of-hemu-a-medieval-king-reveals-the-true-intent-of-hindutva-history-1749171.html">http://www.firstpost.com/india/in-praise-of-hemu-a-medieval-king-reveals-the-true-intent-of-hindutva-history-1749171.html</a></p> <p>Date Accessed: 9/10 /2014</p>	<p>Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Akhil Bharatiya Itihaas Sankalan Yojana (ABISY)</p>	<p>National Museum, New Delhi</p>
--	---	---------------------------------------

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
------------------	--	--

<p><b>DU's Sanskrit Department Kickstarts Project to Prove Aryans were not Foreigners</b></p> <p>A project that could possibly rewrite history to fit the Sangh Parivar's view of India's past, was announced by Delhi University's Sanskrit department in the presence of OP Kohli -- a BJP leader recently appointed Gujarat governor -- and vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh at an event marking 60 years of Sanskrit research. Hindu nationalists claim that the Aryans were an indigenous group people — not migrants.</p> <p><a href="http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-09-30/news/54475201_1_sanskrit-department-delhi-university-scientific-evidence">http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-09-30/news/54475201_1_sanskrit-department-delhi-university-scientific-evidence</a> Date Accessed:1/10/2014</p>	<p>Sanskrit Department Delhi University and RSS</p>	<p>(Delhi)</p>
--	---	----------------

## EFFORTS TO BUILD COMMUNAL HARMONY

<p><b>INTER-RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS:</b></p> <p><b>Carrying on a Tradition: An Ode to Communal Harmony</b></p> <p>The ‘Phoolwalon ki sair’ is seen as an example of harmony and is celebrated by both Hindus and Muslims since the Mughal era. It is organised every year by the Anjuman "Sair-e-Gul Faroshan" in Mehrauli.</p> <p><a href="http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/carrying-on-a-tradition-an-ode-to-communal-harmony-114101301062_1.html">http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/carrying-on-a-tradition-an-ode-to-communal-harmony-114101301062_1.html</a> Date accessed : 14/10/2014</p> <p><b>Hindu-Muslim Girls Unite to Organise Durga Puja</b></p> <p>Rescued earlier this year after being trafficked to Mumbai from West Bengal’s Murshidabad, two Muslim girls are not only taking part in the festivities at NGO Sanlaap’s shelter home in Narendrapur, but are offering their prayers to the goddess and cooking the ‘bhog’. The girls from both the religions are organising a Durga Puja inside a shelter home for trafficked women.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/hindu-muslim-girls-unite-to-organise-durga-puja/">http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/hindu-muslim-girls-unite-to-organise-durga-puja/</a> Date accessed : 9/10/2014</p>	<p>Anjuman "Sair-e-Gul Faroshan" society (Yogmaya Shaktipeeth temple, Dargah of Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki)</p> <p>Sanlap (NGO)</p>	<p>New Delhi</p> <p>(West Bengal)</p>
---	---	---------------------------------------

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
<p><b>Devotees from All Religions Gather at Shrine of Peer Monga Nath, Upholding Communal Harmony</b></p> <p>The shrine of Peer Monga Nath is Located 35 kms from Jammu in the border area of Satrayan village, the shrine attracts people from different communities. Peer Monga Nath represents the idea of amity and brotherhood. Such cultural establishments in the state remind us the socio-cultural ethos of Kashmir or Kashmiriyat, tradition of religious tolerance, social harmony and brotherhood.</p> <p><a href="http://www.aninews.in/videogallery9/29066-devotees-from-all-religions-gather-at-shrine-of-peer-monga-nath-upholding-communal-harmony.html">http://www.aninews.in/videogallery9/29066-devotees-from-all-religions-gather-at-shrine-of-peer-monga-nath-upholding-communal-harmony.html</a> Date Accessed : 14/10/2014</p>	The Shrine of Peer Monga Nath	Jammu, (Jammu & Kashmir)
<p><b>GARBA:</b></p> <p><b>Not Dancing to VHP Tune</b></p> <p>As always, Muslims were present at garbas as organisers, entertainers and participants. ‘No Muslims at Garba’ campaign had only superficial impact due to strong cultural tradition in Gujarat.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/not-dancing-to-vhp-tune/99/">http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/not-dancing-to-vhp-tune/99/</a> Date accessed : 9/10/2014</p> <p><b>Muslim-Hosted Garba Restores Communal Goodwill</b></p> <p>Mohsin Shaikh (26) continued the garba tradition that is established by his father, Shaikh Abdul Qayyum in Mirzapur before 35 years . Mohsin got permission from the authorities to organize Sharad Poonam garba despite the tension. Both Hindus and Muslims took part in the dancing and feasted on the customary 'doodh-poha' blessed by the light of a full moon.</p> <p><a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Muslim-hosted-garba-restores-communal-goodwill/articleshow/44766430.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Muslim-hosted-garba-restores-communal-goodwill/articleshow/44766430.cms</a> Date accessed : 10/10/2014</p>	Hindu-Muslim Community	(Gujarat)

<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Organization/ Communities/ Individuals Involved</i>	<i>Date and Place of Incidents</i>
------------------	--	--

## SECULAR PERSPECTIVES

<p><b>Changing Face of Hinduism</b></p> <p>Recently from some self-styled champions of Hindutva we have witnessed innumerable outbursts of hate speeches on issues ranging from the propaganda of what they call “love jihad” to the ideological assertions that in India ‘we are all Hindus’. They have also unleashed an attack on the liberal Hinduism. The basic question we need to address is whether the voices coming from the RSS combine represent actual Hinduism or they are related to the new practice of politics in the name of Hinduism? The question becomes more pertinent when we see group like Al Qaeda or ISIS acting against humanity, in the name of Islam.</p> <p><a href="http://nvonews.com/changing-face-of-hinduism/">http://nvonews.com/changing-face-of-hinduism/</a> Date Accessed : 15/10/2014</p>	<p>Ram Puniyani Secular Activist</p>	
<p><b>Using a State Broadcaster to Propagate a Political Ideology is Not Justified</b></p> <p>All India Radio and Doordarshan are public broadcasters and to enhance their neutrality and functions we have the Prasar Bharati which is there to ensure their professional autonomy and efficiency. These public broadcasters draw their financial support from the government. In fact, there is also a demand that they get their funds from the consolidated fund of India. While they get their financial support from the government, the public broadcasters cannot be biased against any one ideology, group or political party. That is where the Constitution comes into picture and makes it incumbent upon the public broadcasters to uphold the secular, democratic, republic identity of the country.</p> <p><a href="http://www.asianage.com/debate/using-state-broadcaster-propagate-political-ideology-not-justified-252">http://www.asianage.com/debate/using-state-broadcaster-propagate-political-ideology-not-justified-252</a> Date Accessed : 10/10/2014</p>	<p>D.Raja, Communist Party of India</p>	<p>09/10/2014</p>
<p><b>Banned for Telling The Truth About Riots?</b></p> <p><i>A documentary film ‘En Dino Muzaffarnagar’ by Shubhradeep Chakravorty and Meera Chaudhary documents the communal carnage that ripped through the Uttar Pradesh city, once known as Mohhabatnagar or the City of Love, last year. The film talks of unspeakable violence, touches on the contentious issue of ‘Love Jihad’ and has heart-rending scenes of Muslim women walking on the graves of their loved ones after the riots. But it also shows how Hindus and Muslims bravely protected each other from rioters. However, Film Censor board of India banned the documentary.</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.thehoot.org/web/Banned-for-telling-the-truth-about-riots-/7836-1-1-6-true.html">http://www.thehoot.org/web/Banned-for-telling-the-truth-about-riots-/7836-1-1-6-true.html</a> Date Accessed : 14/10/2014</p>	<p>Nupur Basu , Documentary Makers</p>	