

**A Chronicle  
of  
Communal Incidents  
in the  
Coastal Districts of Karnataka**

**UPDATE - 2022**

Summary

**Total number of communal incidents: 174**

Out of these,

**Incidents of moral policing -**

Allegedly by Hindu vigilantes: 37

Allegedly by Muslim vigilantes: 4

Sub-total: **41**

**Incidents related to allegations of religious conversion: 3**

**Incidents of cattle vigilantism: 15**

**Incidents of hate speech -**

Allegedly by Hindu Fundamentalists: 58

Allegedly by Muslim Fundamentalists: 10

Allegedly by Christian Fundamentalists:

Unidentified social media accounts: 18

Sub-total: **86**

**Incidents of Attacks/Desecration of Places of Worship:**

Allegedly by Hindu Fundamentalists:	2
Allegedly by Muslim Fundamentalists:	1

Sub-total:	<b>3</b>
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**Other communal incidents:**

Allegedly by Hindu Fundamentalists:	23
Allegedly by Muslim Fundamentalists:	3
Allegedly by Police:	

Sub-total:	<b>26</b>
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# Moral Policing

## 1) Allegedly by Hindu Vigilantes

### 2.1.2022. Sullia.

When activists of the Bajrang Dal came to know that an inter-faith couple was staying in a lodge here they immediately went there, took the couple into custody and handed them over to the Sullia police. During questioning the police found that the young woman was from Kerala and there was missing case registered against her at a Kerala police station. The Sullia police have informed that the couple will be handed over to the concerned police station. – **Karavali Ale, 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

### 2.2.2022. Uppinangady.

Activists of Sangh Parivar called up the Uppinangady police station and told them that a girl, Sushma was in illegal custody inside one Shamsuddin's house at Piligudu in Kaniyur village. The police went to the spot and brought the girl to police station. During questioning the girl told them that she had come to her friend's house by her own volition. Upon this the police let her go to her parent's house in Chikmagaluru. Meanwhile Shamsuddin has lodged a complaint with the police stating that Yaashodar, Kartik, Harish, Baby and others trespassed into his compound and threatened to kill him and his family members. A case has been registered on the basis of this complaint. – **Vartha Bharati, 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

### 9.2.2022. Dharmasthala.

A Hindu girl and a Christian boy working in a private concern in Mangaluru who were in love with each other had planned a trip to Madikeri. When the girl's family got the information they complained to the Dharmasthala police who in turn alerted the Sullia police. When the bus arrived at Sullia, the Sullia police took them into custody and later handed them over to the Dharmasthala police, it is learnt. – **Karavali Ale, 10<sup>th</sup>**.

### 17.2.2022. Udupi.

In a case of immoral rowdism, activists of a right-wing outfit handed over a girl and boy belonging to different communities who were in a resort in Malpe over to police.

It is said that the activists came to know that a girl and a boy from different communities had been to a resort in Malpe on February 17. An activist of a right-wing outfit first got the information and passed on the same to leaders of the outfit. They grew suspicious and informed the local police. Malpe police arrived on the spot and took both the girl and the boy into custody and interrogated. Sources said that the young couple had booked a room in a resort at Badanidiyoor. The couple said that they were childhood friends and loved each other.

SI of Malpe police station informed that both were sent to their respective houses after their parents were summoned to the police station. No complaint has been registered. – **Daijiworld.com, 17<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=927718>

### 15.3.2022. Puttur.

Two girl students and two boy students of a college at Darbe who were having fruit juice in a restaurant near the bus stand were forcibly taken away and assaulted just because they happened to belong to different faiths.

A group of four youth belonging to a certain Sangh Parivar outfit descended on the restaurant as soon as they were tipped off by the restaurant staff and took the students to the outfit's office in the city. Reportedly the boys were assaulted and the girls were hit with shoes and chappals. The entire incident has been videographed and posted on the website of a WhatsApp group. It is said that the victims were threatened that the video would be made viral if they dare to lodge any police complaint. – **Karavali Ale, 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### **18.3.2022. Bantwal.**

Here is yet another story of Moral Policing, which seems like a never-ending problem. It is learnt that a Muslim man, who is a manager in a private company, was prevented from travelling with a woman colleague from another faith in Bantwal town. In a complaint filed by the woman, Pushpa M, a resident of Perla in Kasaragod, stated that she has been working for a private company as a supervisor. On Friday, 18 March, she was travelling with her manager Mehboob Shareef from Mangaluru to Puttur in a KSRTC bus. When the bus reached Kudrebettu in Balilla village, two to three people questioned Shareef and warned him not to travel with the woman of another faith. The miscreants also made Shareef get off the bus, she stated. Bantwal police have registered a case under Sections 341, 506 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code. – **Mangalorean.com, 18<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/activists-force-muslim-man-to-get-off-ksrtc-bus-for-traveling-with-woman-of-different-faith/>

### **5.4.2022. Uppinangady.**

In yet another incident of moral policing in Dakshina Kannada, a group of people assaulted a Muslim youth who was driving his autorickshaw with a woman from a Hindu community at Derane under Siribagilu village in Kadaba taluk on Gundya-Kukke Subrahmanya Road on April 5. The police have arrested two of the accused Balachandra (35) and Ranjith (31) in this connection. Both accused are residents of Siribagilu village. The other accused have been named as Surendra, Tirtha Prasad and Jitesh. The police said that Nazeer (21) of Sampya, Aryapu village in Puttur taluk, was driving his autorickshaw, accompanied by the woman, from Uppinangady to Gundya on the National Highway 75. After reaching Gundya, he took the Kukke Subrahmanya Road. At around 12.15 p.m., they were stopped by the accused who demanded to know their names. On learning that the driver is a Muslim and the woman a Hindu, the group assaulted the driver, the police said and added that the youth is in love with the woman. Uppinangady Police have registered a case against the accused under Sections 143, 147, 341, 504, 323, 324, 506 and Section 153 read with Section 149 of the Indian Penal Code. – **The Hindu, 7<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/inter-faith-lovers-waylaid-youth-attacked-at-derane/article65298305.ece>

### **4.5.2022. Vittal.**

It is alleged that one Shahul Hamid, resident of Taleki near Kaniyur was in love with a Dalit girl from Kaniyur and was pestering her to desert her parents and go with him. When the girl committed suicide her father complained against Shahul to the Vittal police. The *Prakhand* Bajrang Dal of Vittal too lodged a complaint of 'love jihad' with the police. The police have slapped cases under IPC section 306 and the SC/ST Atrocities Act against Shahul. – **Karavali Ale, 5<sup>th</sup>**.

### **25.5.2022. Kundapur.**

A 25-year-old girl, who consumed rat poison on May 23, breathed her last on May 25. The Right-wing outfits have alleged that the girl committed suicide because of love jihad. The deceased has been identified as Shilpa (25), a resident of Uppinakudru, Kundapur. According to police sources, Shilpa was working in a textile shop

for the last 3 years. She was in a relationship with a youth from a different faith. It is said that both were in love and in a physical relationship. Recently Shilpa had forced the boy to get married but he refused. On May 23, Shilpa consumed rat poison. The family members rushed her to Kundapur Private hospital and then shifted her to the Manipal Hospital. On May 25, Shilpa breathed her last without responding to the treatment. Shilpa's brother and Right-wing outfits have alleged that Shilpa committed suicide because of love jihad and have demanded action against the youth and his family members. A case has been registered in the Kundapur Town Police Station and investigation is on. – **Mangalorean.com, 25<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/25-year-old-girl-commits-suicide-right-wing-outfits-allege-love-jihad/>

### **27.5.2022. Belthangady.**

Rumours are rife in Kokkada near here that a Hindu girl, who used to visit Sauthadka Ganapati temple frequently, got married to an auto rickshaw driver belonging to another community. On Friday May 27, this rumour took a different turn with a gang of youths trying to assault some other auto driver of a different community over some other issue. It is said that on Friday, May 27, a girl, a devotee of Sauthadka Kshethra arrived at the temple in the auto rickshaw that was driven by youth of another community. It is said that the auto driver engaged in conversation with the girl while tendering change after she got down. A gang of youths, which noticed this, took the auto driver to task and even tried to assault him. Locals brought the issue to the notice of Dharmasthala police. Station officer Krishnakant arrived on the spot and diffused the situation. It is said that this incident resulted immediately after the rumour of a Hindu girl from Bengaluru having married an auto driver of another community of Kokkada. – **Daijiworld.com, 28<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=962884>

### **12.7.2022. Uppinangady.**

Shamsheena (22), a Muslim, and Kavya (21), a Hindu, became friends four years ago while working at a garment shop. They live in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district in Golthadi and Ramnagar villages, around 20 km apart, respectively. They visit each others' homes frequently and their families are also acquainted.

On July 12, the second day of Eid ul Adha, Shamsheena invited Kavya for a biryani feast. What followed has left both the women and their families shocked and revealed the efforts by Hindutva groups to actively discourage inter-community relations.

Usually, Kavya's brother would drop her at Shamsheena's home. But on that day, he had some other engagement and dropped Kavya mid-way to Shamsheena's house, at Uppinangady town. Shamsheena came to pick her up from there. They got on a bus and travelled to Athoor town, where they got down to buy chicken. Then they hired an autorickshaw to go home.

On the way home, they noticed that another auto was following them. About five minutes away from their home, they got down from the auto – the driver said he had something else to attend to. The second auto – which had no passengers – continued to follow them. They also noticed that some men were following them on two-wheelers. When they stopped at a shop, they found a man gazing at them “oddly”. After they reached Shamsheena's home, more than 20-30 people associated with the Bajrang Dal gathered a few metres away.

At around 1 pm, three police officers (two males and one lady) arrived at the Shamsheena's home. They asked for her brother Ziyad. They told the cops that he was not there. The police officers told Shamsheena that they have information that her brother has “brought a Hindu girl” home. Kavya told *The Wire* that she was informed by the police later that someone had “informed” them that Shamsheena's brother had brought her there. “You are lying. Where is his auto? Ask him to come out,” the police asked. Ziyad works in Bengaluru and had not been home for months.

“We were puzzled by these questions from the police,” Shamsheena said. She explained to the police that her brother was in Bengaluru. She and Kavya had hired an auto and her brother was not the driver. He did not ride an auto. She told them that Kavya was her friend and she had come to their home with her family’s permission and that she was a frequent visitor.

The cop, who was in civilian clothes, then asked, “Why was the window of the auto covered?” Shamsheena reasoned that since it was monsoon, the drapes are down in case it starts to rain. The cops also accused them of not paying the auto fare – which the two women denied.

Shamsheena had to call up her brother and put him on the loudspeaker. Ziyad confirmed to the police that he was not in town, let alone at home. A series of exchanges followed between the police for more than an hour. Shamsheena said the police also spoke to the Hindutva mob gathered outside the house. The police demanded that Kavya should come with them. Kavya, Shamsheena and their families opposed this. Kavya’s brother was already on his way and will pick her up, they said. But the police did not relent and pressured the family. “The police forced me to go with them, even as I told them I’ll go with my brother. But they didn’t listen to me,” Kavya said. She budged because she thought Shamsheena’s family would be in trouble if she stayed there any longer. “We gave her a packed biryani while she was leaving with the police,” Shamsheena told *The Wire*.

According to Kavya, the police took her in a private car to Aditya Hotel in Uppinangady town. They had called her brother to pick her up from there. They collected her personal details including her name, age and phone number and even her brother’s phone number. Moreover, the lady constable took a photo of her in the car and later another photo with her brother at Uppinangady. When Kavya asked the police why they took her along, they answered, “We feared that the Hindutva group would create trouble and in that case, we cannot give protection.”

Since then, Kavya claims that she gets calls from unknown numbers from different places. Some were from Mangaluru and some from other regions. She said she shared her number only with the police and doesn’t know how her number was leaked. She said that some members of the Bajrang Dal called her family on July 13 and threatened them. They would face the consequences for Kavya giving their names to the police. They also abused her for going to the house of a Muslim for biryani.

Kavya denies the allegation that she gave names to the police. “I have informed the police about these developments, to which they said if I get any more calls, I should lodge a complaint,” she says. According to Kavya, the police also advised her that the next time she plans to go to Shamsheena’s home, she should take a family member along. “My family knows Shamsheena’s family well. I have their support,” Kavya said. Her family told her she should not worry because she has done nothing wrong.

When *The Wire* asked Kavya how she felt about these events, she said she was “very upset” with the whole episode. “They are Hindus but I don’t know why they did this. If they had any issue, they could have asked me directly but they created such a scene. The police were asking for my friend’s brother, and it seems like they were looking for him. They behaved rudely with me while I was trying to convince them that I had come to see my friend,” she said. Kavya said she will not let the extremists succeed in their ploy to polarise her relationship with her friend. “I had been to their house last Eid also and that too in the evening. Neither Shamsheena nor I believe in caste or religious hatred. I will continue to go to her house. Her parents are warm and welcoming. My sister is pregnant and she asked Shamsheena for biryani and hence on this Eid, Shamsheena invited me for the feast.”

Shamsheena’s family lodged a police complaint against the Hindutva men who had gathered outside their home. They have named four persons. The family said that the police did not register a case and instead claimed they had visited their home based on misinformation.

When *The Wire* called sub-inspector Anjanappa Reddy, who is in charge of the Kadaba police station, he said, “I can not give you a statement over the phone on this matter.”

Shamsheena, asked about the plausible motivations of the Hindutva group, told *The Wire*, “It emerged to us that it was a planned attack on my brother. The Hindutva groups wanted to target him because he usually makes anti-BJP posts on social media.” *The Wire* spoke to Shamsheena’s brother Ziyad. He said, “I fear for my life now. My sister has said that there is news spreading that the members of the Bajrang Dal are saying, ‘Let Ziyad come back to town, we will not spare him’.” “I had recently posted articles questioning the anti-people policies of the BJP on Facebook and my WhatsApp status. Because of this a Hindutva group in my town is targeting me and even tried to file a complaint against me. When that did not work, they tried to implicate me using such false allegations,” Ziyad said. He added that had he been in town when the police came, the story could have ended differently.

Hindutva groups are very active in coastal Karnataka and their members frown upon inter-community relationships of any nature. Though in the past, Kavya and Shamsheena’s friendship would have been considered normal, the communal polarisation has made sure that these relationships are not encouraged by large sections of society anymore. – ***The Wire*, 18<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://thewire.in/rights/karnataka-two-friends-target-hindutva-polarisation-eid>

### **19.7.2022. Padubidri.**

The Padubidri police have arrested five locals on the charge of obstructing and issuing threats to an inter-faith couple. A Hindu girl from Karkala and a Christian boy from Belman were in love and apparently this was being watched by a group of moral police. On July 19 while the couple was travelling in a scooter five men Abhinandan, Raghavendra, Nitin, Shoban and Manohar stopped them and started abusing the girl for being in love with a boy from a different faith. The men then called the police. The latter took the couple to the police station where they filed a complaint against the five men. The latter were taken into custody and released later on bail after a warning. – ***Karavali Ale*, 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### **21.7.2022. Puttur.**

A girl from Belgaum, working in a fishmeal company in Mangaluru had got a job in Puttur. She resigned her Mangaluru job and was travelling in a bus to Puttur. But being unfamiliar with Puttur she got down at the wrong stop. Looking for help she asked a person for directions. Some local guys who saw this raised a hue and cry as the person happened to be a Muslim. The police were called and they started making inquiries. Meanwhile the girl’s brother who works in Sullia arrived and took his sister with him. – ***Karavali Ale*, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **22.7.2022. Kundapur.**

A group of Hindutva activists barged into a lodge in Uppunda and created a ruckus when they got the information about an inter-faith couple booking a room there. When the couple tried to escape they were caught by the activists. The man, Amir Ali (45) was beaten up and was handed over to the police. During inquiry it was found that the girl was an employee at Amir Ali’s scrap shop in Thokkottu. Reportedly the girl’s family members went to the police station and the issue has been amicably settled. – ***Karavali Ale*, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **25.7.2022. Mangaluru.**

Bajrang Dal members disrupted a party organised by a group of college students at a pub in Mangaluru tonight, saying it violates Indian culture. In today’s vigilante attack, Bajrang Dal members arrived at the ‘Recycle, The Lounge’ pub around 8 pm, sources said, after they were tipped off about a farewell party held by students of St. Aloysius College. The Hindutva activists arrived at the pub and asked the partying students to

leave immediately and hurled abuses at them, an eyewitness told TNM. Videos of the incident were shared on social media and one video showed Bajrang Dal members heckling the students as they rushed out of the pub. "Bevarsi, party malpera? (Drunkards, you want to party!)," one of the members was heard shouting at women as they hurriedly left. It is not yet clear if there was any physical violence in today's incident. The incident comes days after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad issued a statement alleging students in a reputed college in Mangaluru were running a 'drugs and sex mafia'. A poster with the same message was circulated widely online on July 22.

Although there are videos of the incident clearly showing the intrusion by the Bajrang Dal, the police had an entirely different take on things and claimed that they broke up the fracas. They said that when they had reached the pub, it was shutting down and the students were already outside. They then dispersed the Bajrang Dal members and the students from the area, police sources said. "At around 8 pm yesterday, in a pub called Recycle in North police station limits near Balmatta area, there was an incident wherein some media persons were informed by some persons claiming to be belonging to some organisations that in Recycle pub, some illegal activities are taking place and it will have to be stopped," Mangaluru Police Commissioner Shashi Kumar said in a statement.

"Police have also got the information about this and have visited the spot. By then the pub was closing and about 20 boys and 10 girls were also leaving the pub. Some videos have surfaced where some boys and girls are leaving the pub and some men are standing in the parking area," the police commissioner's statement added. Raghavendra M, the police inspector of Mangaluru North police station declined to comment on the incident. Police investigation is underway though no action has been taken yet over the incident.

This attack is being touted as a response to a viral video which emerged last week showing two youngsters kissing inside a private apartment while their friends cheered. "Last week, a video of students from St. Aloysius College doing a 'lip lock' challenge went viral. Now, the students of the same college had a party. (Bajrang Dal) members informed the (police) department and the party was stopped," Sharan Pumpwell, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) secretary in Mangaluru said. Pumpwell was one of the state's top Bajrang Dal leaders in his youth and still plays the role of a senior mentor.

The same venue was attacked by the Sri Rama Sene in January 2009 when it was run under a different name - *Amnesia*. Sri Rama Sene members had barged into *Amnesia* and began assaulting and molesting the women inside. The 2009 *Amnesia* pub attack created headlines after videos surfaced showing Sri Rama Sene activists brutally assaulting and molesting women revellers. The attack was caught on camera and beamed to millions of televisions across India, shocking the country. Yet, nine years after the attack, Sri Rama Sene founder Pramod Muthalik and 30 others accused in the case were acquitted by a Mangaluru court due to lack of evidence. – **The Newsminute, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/bajrang-dal-mob-barge-college-party-mangaluru-pub-chases-out-students-166206>

### **12.8.2022. Uppinangady.**

Rafiq (26), a native of Gadag had come to Sri Kshethra Dharmasthala along with his 28-year-old girl friend, taken darshan of Lord Manjunatha and was about to get into a lodge. However, the lodge manager denied them accommodation as their names and religions did not match. Later, Rafiq and his girlfriend tried to get a room in private lodges in Dharmasthala but did not get any. On receiving the information that the couple was about to move to Subramanya, activists of an hindutva organization stopped them at Kapinabagilu and handed them over to Uppinangady police. Police contacted the family members of the girl and handed her over to them and let Rafiq go after giving him a warning. – **Karavali Ale, 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### **25.8.2022. Puttur.**

Some old students of a local college, belonging to various communities such as Hindu, Muslim, Christian etc., were having a get-together at a café here. This was immediately noticed and objected to by members of a local hindutva organization. They spread the news and also called the police. Within a short span of time a crowd gathered outside the café. When questioned by the police, the students replied that “they were all from the same college and had gathered to have coffee together”. – **Karavali Ale, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

### **30.8.2022. Puttur.**

A student of a Government College in Sullia of Dakshina Kannada district was allegedly assaulted by a few students of the same college and another institute for talking to a Hindu girl on Tuesday, August 30. The victim is Mohammed Saneef, 19, a resident of Jalsur in Sullia. Saneef, a first-year BCom student at First Grade College at Kodialbail in Kasaba village of Sullia taluk, said the Hindu girl from the same college was his friend. Some students who opposed Saneef’s talking to the girl in the college took him to the college ground and later assaulted him. The group also issued a life threat and warned him not to talk to the girl again. “The victim has accused Deekshith, Dhanush, Prajwal, Thanuj, Akshay, Mokshith, Gautham and others of allegedly assaulting him with sticks and issuing a life threat to him,” said SP Rishikesh Sonawane. “Later, family members took Saneef to the Government Hospital in Sullia for treatment,” the SP said. A case has been registered by the Sullia police under IPC sections 143, 147, 323, 324, 506, and 149. – **Mangalorean, 31<sup>st</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/student-assaulted-for-talking-to-friend-in-karnatakas-sullia/>

### **15.9.2022. Mulky.**

Upon finding a Muslim young man talking to a girl near the K.S.Rao Nagar Police Quarters, locals questioned them. When the couple tried to run away the youth was beaten up. Meanwhile the police arrived and took the couple to the police station. On inquiry it was learnt that the youth Fayeem who hails from Uttar Pradesh is staying at Kadapady and has two children. A few months ago he met this girl at a fancy store and both fell in love with each other. Leaders of various organizations visited the police station and made inquiries. – **Karavali Ale, 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### **16.9.2022. Puttur.**

Members of the Hindu Jagran Vedike and Bajrang Dal handed over a Muslim youth who was staying with a Hindu young woman and her parents at a lodging in Puttur this evening. The Muslim youth, on the pretext of offering employment, had accompanied the woman from Kundapur to Puttur a fortnight ago. The youth, identified as Ameer had given his name as Ajit. He was into marketing the products of a company. On noticing the duo loitering in Puttur, the activists caught hold of Ameer and handed him over to the police. Ameer reportedly has been in relation with the woman four years ago. He had promised a job for the woman in a marketing firm and her parents in an arecanut plate-making unit in Puttur. Activists described it as a case of ‘love jihad’. – **Deccan Herald, 17<sup>th</sup>**.

### **16.9.2022. Puttur.**

Hundreds of Hindu workers gathered at the Puttur railway station as they got information that Muslim youths and Hindu girls were travelling together on the train that goes from Mangaluru to Subrahmanya. City police station personnel, who got the information rushed to the railway station and took the youths into custody and

interrogated them. Meanwhile, it is said, the Hindu girls who were travelling with the Muslim youths had got down from the train at Kaniyoor. – **Daijiworld, 17<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1000789>

### **21.10.2022. Mulky.**

Activists of a Hindutva organization objected to an inter-faith relationship involving a married young man and a girl and informed the Mulky police about it. The youth hailing from Navalgund in Hubballi and the girl also from Hubballi were staying in a rented accommodation near Kallapu-Thokur road close to Padupanambur. The Hindutva activists have in their complaint to the police, accused the youth of 'love jihad'. The police interrogated the couple and later sent the girl to Hubballi. No case has been registered. – **Prajavani, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **21.10.2022. Mangaluru.**

In yet another incident of 'moral policing' in the city, the Kankanady police have arrested four persons of a right-wing organization on the charge of assaulting a 27-year-old man, belonging to a minority community, by dragging him out of a private bus bound to Bengaluru as the youth was found travelling with a girl of another faith. The incident took place on the night of October 21.

The police said that an activist of a right-wing organisation, who had come to deliver a parcel to the booking office of the private bus near KSRTC bus stand at Bejai, heard about Mohammed Irfan, 27, travelling with a 27-year-old woman, a Hindu, hailing from Kalasa in Chikkamagaluru, on October 21. When the bus reached Naguri in the city, a group of activists blocked the way of the bus and went inside. Mr. Irfan claimed before the activists that he was one Ravi Kumar. After finding his actual identity, the activists dragged Mr. Irfan out of the bus and rained down blows on him, the police said. On a tip-off about the incident, the police rushed to the spot and secured Mr. Irfan and the activists. Mr. Irfan was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

On the complaint by Mr. Irfan, the Kankanady police arrested Shivaraj, 28, Ganesh, 35, both from Attavar in the city; Dhanush, 22, of Manjeshwar in Kasaragod district of Kerala; and Micheal Kishore, 24, of Talapady here. They were charged with offence punishable under Section 153 (A) (Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language) of the Indian Penal Code. They were produced before the jurisdictional magistrate, who remanded them to judicial custody. – **The Hindu, 25<sup>th</sup>**.

### **20.11.2022. Bantwal.**

Two inter-faith couples who were having fun at Ninnikallu gudda near Alakemajalu were caught by the locals and handed over to the Vittal police. It is alleged that the daughter of a well-known fish merchant of Kabaka had invited her Hindu friend over to Ninnikallu and was having fun along with two young boys of her own faith. – **Karavali Ale, 21<sup>st</sup>**.

### **22.11.2022. Puttur.**

Hindu organisations have raised objections to an interfaith couple applying for marriage at a sub-registrar's office here, suspecting it to be a "love jihad" case. The incident came to light after the office of registrar invited objections, if any, to the marriage as part of the normal procedure. It had given 30 days' time to register disapproval. According to sources, the girl is a resident of Darbe near Puttur town in Dakshina Kannada and she is currently staying in Bengaluru. The man is 44-year-old Sheik Mohammad Saleem, a resident of Nyapanahalli in Bengaluru. Both had applied for marriage at a sub-registrar's office. The development has

raised concerns and there is no statement by the police as well as the parents of the girl. – **Mangalorean, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/puttur-inter-faith-couple-apply-for-marriage-hindu-groups-suspect-love-jihad/>

### **24.11.2022. Mangaluru.**

It is reported that a gang of Hindu youths assaulted student Syed Rashim Ummer (20) accusing him of sitting with a Hindu girl in the same seat on the bus. Rashim, who is studying in a private college in Karkala was assaulted by a gang of youths at Nanthoor on November 24 evening inside the bus. Syed Rashim used to travel in the private bus that arrives to Mangaluru via Karkala-Nitte route everyday along with his classmate Hindu girl. [At Nanthoor] Three to four strangers barged inside the bus, pulled out Rashim and assaulted him. Traffic police on duty at Nanthoor prevented further beating of Rashim by the gang. In his complaint at Kadri police station, Rashim also said that the gang made him to alight from the bus and threatened that they will kill him if he conveys the assault matter to anyone. Kadri police are investigating further. – **Daijiworld, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1023325>

In connection with incident of assault on a college student police have now arrested Muthu (18) and Prakash (21) of Suratkal and Rakesh (23) of Asaigoli. All three are activists of Bajrang Dal and VHP. – **Karavali Ale, 28<sup>th</sup>**.

### **27.11.2022. Kadaba.**

On receipt of information about an inter-faith couple being inside a room in a rented house at Kochakatte in Perabe village, activists of an Hindutva organization raided the place. They caught a Hindu girl of Manjeshwar and handed her over to the police. The girl was caught while trying to escape from the back door. The young man from Mudipu however managed to escape. The police have conducted an inquiry and allowed the girl to go home. – **Karavali Ale, 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### **3.12.2022. Mangaluru.**

Activists of Bajrang Dal swooped down on a café near Ballal Bagh at night and caught an inter-faith couple allegedly engaged in romance. They beat up the young boy and then handed over the couple to the Barke police. It is learnt that the vicrims are students of a reputed college of Mangaluru. – **Karavali Ale, 4<sup>th</sup>**.

### **6.12.2022. Mangaluru.**

A male staff of a jewellery showroom was allegedly abused and assaulted by members of Hindutva organizations and parents of a young woman working in the same showroom in the Mangaluru East Police Station limits today. A woman from Koppa and a youth from B.C.Road, reportedly belonging to different faiths were working at a jewellery showroom in Kankanady for the last 45 days. Members of a few Hindutva organizations had reportedly tipped off her parents when the woman was found moving around with the man from a different faith. The members of Hindutva organizations along with her parents visited the showroom and questioned the man. They later abused and created a ruckus inside the showroom, police sources said. The sources said mother of the girl has complained against the youth for abusing her and threatening of dire consequences. Sulthan Gold Jewellery showroom owner filed a complaint against Hindutva organizations for allegedly vandalizing their premises. The youth has complained against Hindutva organizations for assault and rioting, sources added. – **Deccan Herald, 7<sup>th</sup>**.

### **7.12.2022. Mangaluru.**

Alleging that Munir (27) was harassing a woman for sexual favours at an isolated place called Abbangara near Ullal, activists of Bajrang Dal assaulted him and handed him over to the Ullal police. On the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman, the police have registered a case and arrested Munir. It is said that the woman from Ullalbail is married and had a child. She was working at a clothings shop Sagar Collections at Thokkottu. Munir too was an employee at the same shop. Reportedly he had obtained an emergency loan from the woman. On December 7 night on the pretext of returning the loan he is alleged to have harassed her and this was seen by the local activists of Bajrang Dal and they immediately acted. – **Karavali Ale, 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### **7.12.2022. Puttur.**

Girl students of a community, who participated in the birthday party in which boy students of another community of a private paramedical education institution were also present, have raised a complaint with the police as the video was made viral on a troll page by some boy students who were also part of the birthday party. The birthday party was held at Puttur railway station. Right wing organizations expressed rage and informed the concerned educational institution. The students were warned by the educational institution. Meanwhile, the girl students who were in the party, have filed a complaint in Puttur police station against the boy students. – **Daijiworld, 8<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1027296>

### **10.12.2022. Mangaluru.**

In another case of moral policing in Mangaluru, members of the Hindutva group Bajrang Dal reportedly attacked two Muslim men who were part of an interfaith group late at night in the city on Saturday, December 10. The accused allegedly assaulted two Muslim men as they were moving in the Kottara area along with two Hindu women, who were looking for an eatery. According to the police, one of the women in the interfaith group is a minor. Police officials said members of the Hindutva group questioned the interfaith quartet for moving around in the city late at night on December 10. They claimed that this was a case of 'love jihad'. 'Love jihad' is a bogey term used by right-wing organisations to propagate the theory that Muslim men 'trap' and marry Hindu women with malafide intentions. The union government had earlier told the Lok Sabha in 2019 that no "case of 'love jihad' had been reported by any of the central agencies". As per Mangaluru police, the incident had taken place in the limits of Urwa police station in the city, however, no complaint was lodged with the police and no arrests have been made in the case yet.

The incident comes less than a week after a case of moral policing in a jewellery shop in Mangaluru led to the arrest of four members of the Bajrang Dal. This incident took place in the Kadri police station limits on December 6 and police arrested Shibin (36), Ganesh (35), Prakash (34) and Chethan (39) in connection with the case. According to police, the accused had barged into a jewellery shop on December 6 and assaulted a Muslim man as he was seen with a Hindu woman. They claimed that the man was in a relationship with a Hindu co-worker and that this was a case of 'love jihad'. – **The Newsmminute, 12<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thenewsmminute.com/article/mangaluru-bajrang-dal-members-allegedly-attack-muslim-men-part-interfaith-group-170853>

### **13.12.2022. Vittal.**

GA PU college management in Vittal has sent home 18 of its students for supporting a controversial love affair between a Hindu girl and a Muslim boy. They have been sent home as a precautionary measure and asked to appear only for the examination. The decision was taken after holding discussions in the presence of the

parents and professors. The college management had informed the parents soon after the love affair came to light. The college was running without any issues for some time after that. However, when gossip about the love affair began doing the rounds during the college anniversary, a team of professors decided to inspect the use of mobiles in the classes. A love letter was found in the hand of the Hindu girl. The Muslim boy had not come to the college that day. The girl was asked, as a precaution measure, to only attend examinations. As the Muslim boy appeared for classes, some Hindu boys in groups were seen questioning him. A discussion was held in the presence of parents of the Muslim boy and six other boys of the same community who had helped him and the Hindu boys who went to question in group. The students were sent home asking them to come to the college only during the examination. Appreciations are being heard for the bold decision of the college management. – **Daijiworld, 13<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1029224>

#### **14.12.2022. Bantwal.**

A gang of three men brutally assaulted a bus passenger at Rayee on Wednesday, December 14 in the morning alleging that he misbehaved with girls in the bus. A case in this connection was registered at Bantwal rural police station on December 15. In the police complaint filed by Issac, a resident of Talapady's B Mooda village, he says he works as a mason at Moodbidri Gantalkatte and travelled from B C Road to Moodbidri in Mahaganesh bus in the mornings. "When I travelled from B C Road to Moodbidri in the morning two days ago, as there were many passengers in the bus I held a school bag given by a girl. Similarly, I was travelling by Maha Ganesh bus at 7.25 am from B C Road to Gantalkatte on Wednesday also. As the bus reached Kudkoli at 8.10 am, a person sitting in the bus hurled expletives at me saying that I am troubling girls and tried to send me out from the bus. As the bus stopped at a stop, two more men got on the bus, hurled expletives and assaulted me saying that I was misbehaving with girls. They forced me to get in the rickshaw that arrived from the auto park. They took me to Rai, stopped the rickshaw under a goli tree, took a stick from a forest tree and the three men hit me on my back, left hand, shoulders, thighs and my stomach and threatened to kill me if I travelled in this bus. One of them hit me on my eye and fled when people were gathering. I went home taking medicine and as the pain increased, I got myself admitted to Highland hospital, Mangaluru," stated Issac. Bantwal rural police have registered a case in this connection and are investigating. – **Daijiworld, 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**P**olice arrested three people in connection with the assault on a bus passenger on the accusation of harassing girls. Manohar, Chethan and Kishore are the arrested accused. They attacked Isaac (43), resident of Talapady, B C Road, with wooden logs. He is admitted to hospital in Mangaluru. – **Daijiworld, 16<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1029964>

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1030132>

#### **15.12.2022. Bantwal.**

An incident of Bajrang Dal activists objecting to a young Hindu woman and Muslim man travelling together in a bus and creating a scene has been reported from the communally sensitive district of Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka, said police on Friday, December 16. According to police, the woman was travelling with her friend in a private bus from Mangaluru to Bengaluru. The Bajrang [Dal] activists, who got to know about this, tried to stop the bus near the Pumpwell area in Mangaluru. However, when they could not stop the bus, they informed their members in Kalladka town. The activists stopped the bus at Dasakodi near Kalladka at midnight on Thursday. They questioned the woman and the man over their travelling together. The activists scolded the woman, and asked both to get down from the bus. They later informed the Bantwal police, who immediately rushed to the spot and took the two to safe custody. This is the sixth incident of moral policing reported from

the coastal district of Dakshina Kannada in two weeks. A video of the woman arguing with the Bajrang Dal activists went viral on social media. The activists told the police that the two were travelling together on a sleeper bus and they suspected it to be a trap. The parents of the woman were called and she was sent home with them, police sources said. The police have taken up the matter for further investigation. – **Mangalorean, 16<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/bajrang-dal-activists-object-to-hindu-woman-travelling-with-muslim-man-in-kalladka/>

SP Rishikesh Sonawane said that as none had come forward to file a complaint, the police had registered a *suo motu* case against unidentified miscreants. – **Deccan Herald, 17<sup>th</sup>**.

### **17.12.2022. Mulky.**

A man in his 30's was tied up and thrashed by the public for stalking and misbehaving with a minor girl at Kerekadu village of Mulki, as per police reports. It is learnt that the young man had followed the girl on his motorbike on December 13 and misbehaved with her- and when the girl's father, along with two of his friends came to know about the behaviour of the man, they wanted to teach him a lesson. So, on Saturday, 17 December, when the young man was seen moving around in that same area, the girl's father along with others got hold of the man, tied him up and thrashed him left and right. the youth was seen in the same vicinity. He was caught, tied and thrashed. The police who arrived at the scene, arrested the man and based on the complaint by the girl's parents was booked under POCSO. Meanwhile, the accused also filed a counter complaint with Mulky police for being assaulted by the public and creating chaos. The police are investigating the incident. – **Mangalorean, 18<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/man-tied-up-and-thrashed-by-the-public-for-misbehaving-with-a-minor-girl-in-mulki/>

The police arrested three hindutva activists of Bellary village in Kerekadu in connection with the incident. They are Divyesh Devadiga (38), Rajesh Kerekadu and Yogish Kumar. The trio had assaulted Dawood Hakim (33) on Saturday, 17 December. – **Karavali Ale, 19<sup>th</sup>**.

### **22.12.2022. Belthangady.**

The incident of two students being suspended for hugging and kissing at a book release function attended by Opposition leader Siddaramaiah came to light on Thursday, December 22. The matter has taken a communal turn as the boy is a Muslim and the girl student is a Hindu. The incident took a communal turn after the matter was discussed on social media. Alleging 'love jihad', the Hindu activists were reported to be giving life threats to the boy. They are questioning the boy for romancing with the Hindu girl. As the matter took a communal turn, the management of a private college lodged a complaint with the Beltangady police station and demanded action against those who were carrying out campaigns online about the students. The college had stated that after the incident had come to their knowledge both the students have been suspended from the college. Sources said that the students indulged in romance when opposition leader Siddaramaiah attended a book release function in Belthangady town last week. However, the Hindu activists were alleging that only the Hindu girl student was suspended from the college. The police have taken up further investigation. – **Daijiworld, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1032156>

**KARNATAKA: VHP, BAJRANG DAL LAUNCH LOVE JIHAD  
HELPLINE FOR VICTIMS OF FORCED RELIGIOUS CONVERSION**

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has launched this helpline in association with several other Hindu organisations to provide legal and medical assistance to these girls and their family members. That's why, to prevent all such incidents, we have started this `Love Jihad Helpline` which can be accessed by anyone who has been trapped in the Love Jihad," Pradeep Saripalla said. He further said that even the parents of these girls can reach the helpline. "We will keep all the information confidential. The helpline team contains 20 members, which would work for providing medical help, legal advice, counselling and rehabilitation. Anybody can call here for help without any fear," he added. The VHP shared one calling and one WhatsApp number through which these girls can get in touch with the counsellors and seek necessary help. The survivors can call at 9148658108 and WhatsApp them at 9591658108. The organisation also shared the email ID as [antilovejihadmira@gmail.com](mailto:antilovejihadmira@gmail.com) for easy access to the aide. – **Zee News, December 31.**

<https://zeenews.india.com/india/karnataka-vhp-bajrang-dal-launch-love-jihad-helpline-for-victims-of-forced-religious-conversion-2556232.html>

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## **Allegedly by Muslim Vigilantes**

### **3.2.2022. Kundapur.**

In yet another moral policing incident, four men assaulted an ITI student for talking to a girl from another community on a bus near Halady of Kundapur taluk in Udupi district on Thursday February 3 morning. The police said that Shashank, 19, was travelling with his friend, a BSc student from a minority community, on the bus heading towards Kundapur. Near Halady, four men confronted Shashank and rained blows on him. Three of the men got off the bus, while the fourth travelled till Kundapur. Shashank received treatment at the Kundapur Government Hospital. Shashank received treatment at the Kundapur Government Hospital and then filed a complaint against the four men at the Shankaranarayana Police Station under whose jurisdiction the assault took place. The police registered his complaint for offences punishable under Sections 323, 341, 504, 506 and 295 (A) read with 34 of Indian Penal Code. A search is on for the accused. The police said that one of the accused has been identified as Taufiq (31). The police said that a few days ago the accused had threatened Shashank against speaking to his friend. – **The Hindu, 4<sup>th</sup>.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/moral-policing-student-assaulted-in-kundapur/article38374049.ece>

### **1.6.2022. Puttur.**

Following a rumour that Bhasker Nayak, an autorickshaw driver was having an amorous affair with a Hindu woman at Kodipadi, hundreds of people belonging to Muslim and Hindu communities gathered in front of the house. The police got wind of this happening and they arrived swiftly at the spot. During their inspection of the house it was found that the front door was locked. But when the police saw the backdoor open and found nobody inside it was concluded that the pair must have escaped as soon as they saw people gathering. The police dispersed the crowd. No case has been registered. There are two rumours doing the rounds. One, the affair between the two had been going on for quite some time. Two, Bhasker Nayak is member of a hindutva

organization. Therefore some people were just waiting for an opportunity to catch the pair red-handed. – **Karavali Ale, 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

#### **10.6.2022. Puttur.**

Some eight students of Vivekananda Degree College assaulted their classmate Muhammed Puttal Umar (19) for talking to a Hindu girl who was his classmate. The incident occurred at Nehru Junction. The Puttur town police have registered a case. – **Karavali Ale, 11<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **7.12.2022. Sullia.**

In yet another incident of moral policing in Dakshina Kannada district, two youngsters were allegedly assaulted by a group of people when they were waiting on the premises of a cinema to watch *Kantara* in Sullia town on Wednesday December 7. In his complaint sent by e-mail to the Sullia police, Mohammed Imtiyaz, 20, the victim and a resident of B. Muda village in Bantwal taluk, said the incident occurred when he was waiting on Santhosh Talkies premises with his 18-year-old girlfriend from the same community to watch the movie. He accused Abdul Hameed, Ashraf, Sadique, Jabeer Jattipalla, Siddique Borugudde and others of assaulting him and issuing a life threat. Quoting from the complaint, the police said Imthiyaz and his friend had reached the theatre around 10.20 a.m. As the show was to begin at 11 a.m., they were talking to each other at the theatre's vehicle parking area. Watching them talking, a group, comprising five to ten people, approached them, which made the two friends move away out of fear. However, the five accused in the group stopped Imthiyaz and his friend, questioned them as to why they were standing in that place and abused them. Besides, the accused assaulted Imtiyaz and threatened to kill them. They were saved from further assault by people who had gathered at the place. Imtiyaz said they discussed the issue with their parents and decided to lodge a complaint. The Sullia police have registered cases of criminal intimidation, assault and breach of public peace against the accused and are investigating. A video clipping said to be of the incident went viral on social media on Thursday December 8. – **The Hindu, 9<sup>th</sup>.**

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## **'Religious Vigilantism'**

### **Allegedly by Hindu Vigilantes**

#### **11.2.2022. Kadaba.**

When activists of a local Hindutva outfit came to know that a person from a different faith was staying with a Hindu woman they went to her house located at Kothari in Kodimbala village, picked up that person and handed him over to the Kadaba police. It is alleged that the person had been visiting the woman for quite some time and trying to make her change her faith. Despite the activists confronting the woman with evidence of conversion attempts she had not stopped seeing him. At this the activists got angry and they handed over the

person to the police. Incidentally the woman is the victim of an acid attack that happened about a year ago. – **Karavali Ale, 12<sup>th</sup>**.

### **5.6.2022. Uppinangady.**

Uppinangady police visited a meditation centre at Arla in Konalu village of Nelyadi after Hindu organizations alleged conversion activity. There were 27 people at the centre. When the police questioned them the members who had arrived from Shivamogga said that they had watched Youtube programme regarding meditation helping alcoholics and mentally ill persons to recover their health. They also informed the police that they had visited the centre on their own and that they were not being converted. Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police Rishikesh Sonawane said that no complaint has been registered. All those who had gathered there went back to their native districts, he added. – **Deccan Herald, 6<sup>th</sup>**.

## **EXPOSING THE 'FORCED CONVERSIONS' LIE!**

**Fr Cedric Prakash SJ**

(The Author is a human rights, reconciliation and peace activist/writer)

Srinivasan Jain, the popular TV anchor with NDTV, has done a tremendous service to the Constitution of India and thereby, to the people of India! In a hard-hitting exposé on his weekly segment 'Truth vs Hype', released on 19 November, Jain talks about the so-called 'Forced Conversions' with incontrovertible facts and the falsehoods and myths that are built around the issue! A good part of his expose is an interview with Ashwin Kumar Upadhyay, the petitioner in the current case on 'forced conversions' in the Supreme Court.

Jain directly takes on Upadhyay and the 65-page petition submitted by the latter to the Supreme Court. Jain emphatically states that not a single example cited by Upadhyay in the petition comes under the ambit of 'forced conversion'. Jain proves that one of the examples is completely fake! Upadhyay however, continues with his rant without being able to authenticate or substantiate or furnish a single bit of evidence to prove his points, as Jain says, in an absolutely 'flimsy' petition!

Who is Ashwin Kumar Upadhyay? He is a member of the BJP and an advocate in the Supreme Court. His claim to fame comes from the several Public Interest Litigations (PILs) he has filed – many of them are frivolous and are summarily dismissed by the Courts and even at one time referred to PIL as Publicity Interest Litigation. In August 2021, he was arrested in connection with alleged inflammatory and anti-Muslim slogans raised at a protest rally in Delhi – for which permission was not granted by the police!

In April 2021, a three-judge bench of Justices Rohinton F Nariman, B.R. Gavai and Hrishikesh Roy dismissed a similar 'forced conversion' petition by Upadhyay and even threatened to impose heavy costs if he persisted with the petition. The bench at that time had opined that any religious conversion law would be violative of the constitution as the constitution allows the joining of any religion of one's choice and that's why the word "propagate" is in the Constitution. The bench termed "very harmful" the petition that asked for a strict central law to check religious conversion and observed that adults are free to choose their faith.

The bench also cautioned senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayan, who represented Upadhyay in the matter. Upholding Article 25 which allows people to profess, practice and propagate religion, Justice Nariman asked

“What kind of a petition is this? This is a very harmful petition. If you are going to argue this, we are going to impose a heavy cost on you”, said Nariman; he added, “There is a reason why the word ‘propagate’ is there in the Constitution. You have to have some meaning for that word. There is no reason why somebody above 18 cannot choose one’s religion or somebody else’s religion,” The petition was immediately withdrawn!

Some months ago in June 2022, another of Upadhyay’s petitions in the Delhi High Court received the same fate. Marking an observation on the fundamentality of Article 25 of the constitution, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva said, “(religious)conversion is not prohibited in law. Every person has a right to choose and profess any religion of his/her choice. It is a Constitutional right. If someone is forced to convert, then it’s a different issue but to convert is a person’s prerogative.” The bench then asked Upadhyay, “What is the basis for your prayer? There is no material basis on record. No document, no instance. You have given three Supreme Court judgments and rest is your averment”. taking him on his lies that there are several cases of mass conversion, the bench queried, “You have said mass conversion. Where are the statistics? Has any aggrieved person come forward?”

Interestingly, on 14 November 2022, the two-judge bench of the Supreme Court consisting of Justice M.R. Shah and Justice Hima Kohli, responding to Upadhyay’s latest petition, directed the Central Government to inform the Apex Court what steps it intends to take to curb deceitful or compulsory religious conversions. The Order states, “The issue concerning the alleged conversion of religion if it is found to be correct and true, is a very serious issue which may ultimately affect the security of the nation and violate citizens’ right to freedom of conscience and right to freely profess, practice and propagate (sic) religion. Therefore, it is better that the Union Government may make its stand clear and file a counter on what further steps can be taken by the Union of India and/or others to curb such forced conversion, maybe, by force, allurement or fraudulent means”.

Upadhyay demands a Central law against ‘fraudulent religious conversion and religious conversion by intimidation, threatening, deceptively luring through gifts and monetary benefits, as it offends Articles 14, 21, and 25. His petition states, “there is not even one district which is free of black magic, superstition and religious conversion... Incidents are reported every week throughout the country where conversion is done by intimidating, threatening, luring through gifts and monetary benefits.” The very fact that the Supreme Court has even agreed to entertain this recent plea is in dire contrast to its vowed position of upholding Article 25. The next hearing is scheduled for 28 November and as the Order states, “Counter, if any, on behalf of the Union of India be filed on or before 22.11.2022.”

The track record of Justice M. R. Shah, clearly shows that he does not have a high degree of credibility in safeguarding the objectivity of the judiciary or for that matter the Constitution of India. It is certainly not prudent for any sitting justice of any Supreme Court to refer to the Prime Minister of one’s country as “the most popular, loved, vibrant and visionary leader”- as he did so in a function in Ahmedabad in February 2021! Earlier in 2018, as Chief Justice of Patna High Court termed PM Narendra Modi a “model and hero”. His closeness both to Modi and Amit Shah is the talk of the town and has also been the subject of controversy and litigation. Justice Shah is due to retire in May 2023, one certainly will not need much of an effort to guess the ‘suitable reward’ which awaits him!

During the hearing on 14 November, Justice Shah said that “people get converted for rice bags!” His statement is entirely fallacious; however, even if there is an iota of truth in it – does he not have the duty to first pull up the Government and question them as to why people are hungry and poor in the country – when the Government splurges on non-essentials like statues and in the jaunts of the Prime Minister??? He needs to pay attention to the fact that India still has the highest number of poor people (almost 229 million) in the world. Besides, India hosts the highest number of poor children. 97 million children (21.8% of Indian children) are poor in the country.

The 2019-2021 data revealed that around 16.4 per cent of the Indian population is poor; of these, 4.2 % live in extreme poverty since their deprivation score is above 50%. About 18.7% of the population is vulnerable and

could be pushed into extreme poverty. Of these, two-thirds fall into the category where one person is at least deprived of nutrition. The 'Human Development Report 2021-22- Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World', by the UNDP, India is ranked 132 among 191 countries and territories on the 2021 Human Development Index (HDI). India's ranking in Global Hunger Index 2022, also released in October, is now a pathetic 107 out of 121 countries!

Upadhyay's petition also claimed (without any fact), that if forced conversions were not checked, Hindus would soon become a minority in India. (Srinivasan Jain also challenged him on this during the expose, for which Upadhyay had no answer) There could not be a bigger lie than this! One only has to visit the Census data 2011, to realise that the growth rate of minorities is on the decline! Unfortunately, we live in Goebbelsian times: tell a lie a thousand times and people will soon accept it as the truth!

Though there are State anti-conversion laws (which are patently unconstitutional), there is no hard data to prove any so-called 'forced' conversions; nor is there any substantial information on cases filed under these laws and convictions made by courts of law and upheld by higher courts. The argument then is that if the state laws have not succeeded, what is the guarantee that a central law would put an end to forced conversions? In January 2021, Madhya Pradesh came up with a stringent ordinance; within the first 23 days, as many as 23 cases were filed alleging forced conversions; none of them resulted in a conviction. There has been just one conviction by the lower court out of sixteen cases under the UP law.

There have also been several incidents of conversion to Hinduism. In 2014, 57 Muslim families with more than 200 members converted to Hinduism in Agra. In 2021, 300 Muslims in Haryana converted to Hinduism. Ironically enough the anti-conversion laws do not seem to apply to them and are innocuously referred to as 'Ghar wapasi' (homecoming). On 5 October, more than 8,000 Dalits left Hinduism and embraced Buddhism in a mass conversion rally in Delhi. A few days later on 14 October, more than 100 Dalit men and women did the same, throwing pictures of Hindu deities into the Krishna River to renounce their faith.

The anti-conversion laws perpetuate a casteist and patriarchal society because all of them had been enacted on the premise that women, SCs and STs are vulnerable, need protection and cannot take vital decisions in their life on their own. Embracing another religion away from Hinduism is a clear statement that they want to live a more dignified and humane life and there is absolutely no 'force' in their voluntary decision!

The point of the matter, however, is not whether one has the right 'to convert another' but whether as an adult citizen of India, one has the right to choose a religion of one's choice. Article 25 of the Constitution of India guarantees the freedom of conscience, the freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion to all citizens and Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance".

One also needs to ask: if two mature consenting adults would like to marry each other, what right has the State to stop them from doing so? Then, if a Dalit girl wants to embrace Buddhism since it is the religion of her husband and will perhaps lead to enhancing the quality of her life, does she have the right to do so? Or for that matter, if a Christian girl wants to freely embrace Islam after marrying a Muslim, does she also have the right to do so? Why should the State (with its brutal mechanism and vigilantes) or anyone else, interfere in matters which are personal and private and violative of Article 21: the right to privacy?

On 24 August 2017, the Supreme Court of India in a historic judgement declared the right to privacy as a fundamental right, protected under the Indian Constitution. In declaring that this right stems from the fundamental right to life and liberty, the Court's decision has far-reaching consequences for every citizen. In an order that is expected to have a significant impact, on the very day of the Supreme Court order on 14

November, the Madhya Pradesh High Court held that the provision of the state's anti-conversion law requiring prior notice to a district magistrate for religious conversion violated a person's fundamental right to life and privacy and so was unconstitutional.

One also needs to take note of addressing a huge gathering of Mahars in Bombay in May 1936, Dr B. R. Ambedkar openly spoke out his ideas on conversion and why he considered it to be the best and only route towards emancipation saying, "I tell you all very specifically, religion is for man and not man for religion; to get human treatment, convert yourselves. Hindu society does not give equality of treatment, but the same is easily achieved by conversion." Are those in power listening to Ambedkar today?

The 'forced conversion' issue is certainly a lie, a 'bogey', foisted on the nation! It is meant to defocus from more important and pressing issues plaguing the nation today: which include, the growing impoverishment of the poor, rampant corruption and the total lack of Constitutional governance by those in power! Besides, with elections coming up, a ploy like 'conversions' becomes an emotive and manipulative subject! It is left to be seen, in keeping with the rights guaranteed in the Constitution and as the nation observes 'Constitution Week', whether this two-member bench of the Apex Court will have the courage to stand up for what is right and appropriately penalise the petitioner of such a frivolous and unsubstantiated petition? – **Mangalorean, November 23.**

<https://www.mangalorean.com/exposing-the-forced-conversions-lie/>

### **26.11.2022. Mangaluru.**

The Pandeshwar Women's Police have registered a case against three persons including a doctor for alleged conversion on November 27. On November 26, the victim's father Nagaraj went to the Pandeshwar Women's police station and filed a complaint against three people for forcing his daughter to convert to Islam. According to the complaint, the 22-year-old victim was working at a Fancy shop in Bikarnakatte. While working there, she met Khalil and they become friends. Once Khalil took the victim to Kallapu promising her a job with better pay. Trusting Khalil, the victim went to Kallapu, but Khalil taught her to perform Namaz and read the Holy Quran. The victim's name was also changed to Ayesha. Later Ayesha was assigned to work at Dr Zamila's house in Kankanady where she worked for 8 months. Dr Zamila forced the victim to wear a burqa that she purchased. Dr Zamila introduced the victim to a Muslim boy Iman and forced her into a relationship with him. Khalil also tried to abuse the victim. A case was registered in the Pandeshwar Women's Police station under sections 354, 354A, 506 and 34 of IPC and u/s 3 and 5 of the Karnataka protection of the right to freedom of religion ordinance 2022. Further investigation is on and the accused will be arrested soon. – **Mangalorean, November 27.**

<https://www.mangalorean.com/case-filed-against-three-including-doctor-for-alleged-conversion/>

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**Cattle Vigilantism**

## **Allegedly by Hindu Vigilantes**

### **12.1.2022. Kaup.**

Activists of Hindu Jagarana Vedike on Wednesday January 12 reportedly thwarted the illegal transportation of cows and rescued 16 animals. The incident took place in Shirva. Sixteen cows were reportedly being transported in a pickup truck and escorted by an Innova car decorated as a marriage vehicle. It is said that the escort car was being used to hoodwink the police and cow vigilantes. Two cows died and four injured were injured. The accused fled from the spot. A case was registered at Shirva police station. – ***Daijiworld.com***, 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **16.1.2022. Padubidri.**

Acting on a tip-off from Hindu Jagarana Vedike, the Padubidri police intercepted and took into custody a pickup vehicle transporting a cow without proper records. Padubidri Abbas, the transporter reportedly told the police that the cow was being taken to the residence of Anuj of Hejmady as per his instructions. This was confirmed by Anuj but he said he had asked for all the relevant records to accompany the cattle. The police have registered a case against the vehicle. – ***Karavali Ale***, 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **'JAILED FOR REFUSING TO SIGN STATEMENT OF CATTLE THEFT AGAINST IBRAHIM'**

Francis Almeida, an electrician by profession who also undertakes dairying activity, said that he had given a calf free of cost to a friend, Muhammed Ibrahim from Gangolli. Francis alleged that Gangolli police sub-inspector, Nanja Naik, has been pressuring him to file a statement accusing Ibrahim of stealing his cow. "I did not agree to his suggestion. Hence he registered a false case against me and put me behind bars. I am going to register a case against sub-inspector Nanja Naik for meting out injustice to me," Francis asserted.

He was addressing a press conference held in Udupi on February 28. He said that in December 2021 he had given a calf to Ibrahim free of cost for rearing. "He built a cow shed and was looking after the calf. On December 26, Nanja Naik and staff visited the residence of Ibrahim and questioned him about the calf. In the evening, the police summoned me along with Ibrahim to visit Gangolli police station," Francis stated.

He said that he was questioned by the police about the calf and he had told them that he had given it to Ibrahim for free. "At 11 pm that day, the police went to Ibrahim's house and brought the calf to the police station. Then at 2 am next morning (December 27), I was sent home. Afterwards the police took Ibrahim in a jeep to a spot near Monki cross and asked him get down and start running. They made an attempt to kill him in a fake encounter by pointing a gun to his head and ordering him to run. But Ibrahim did not run," Francis alleged. He said he was then asked by the police to bring the calf from the police station to the above spot. "When I reached the place with the calf, I saw some Bajrang Dal activists there. They took a photo of the calf and projected as if Ibrahim had stolen the calf. Then the police arrested Ibrahim and I was sent home. A month later, the Gangolli police called me to the station and asked me to sign a letter stating that I had not sold the calf to Ibrahim. When I refused the police booked a case against me too and arrested me on February 18. I was in jail and was released

on bail on February 21. The police have committed quite a number of atrocities on me," Francis alleged. Sabina, daughter of Francis, and sister-in-law Prameela, were present at the press meet. – **Vartha Bharati, March 1.**

### **31.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

Activists of Bajrang Dal stopped a pick-up vehicle at Kambalapadavu in Konaje and handed over the driver Muhammed Hanif and two male buffaloes to the Konaje police. According to the Bajrang Dal they received definite information that the male buffaloes were being taken from Moodubidri to Kotekaru Kondana for slaughtering. The police have registered a case against Muhammed Hanif for illegal transportation of cattle. – **Vijaya Karnataka, April 1.**

### **1.4.2022. Mangaluru.**

Activists of Bajrang Dal unearthed a network of illegal sale of beef this morning. They stopped an Alto car at Dongerkeri and took into custody 500 kilos of beef being carried illegally from some place in Mudipu to the abattoir at Kudroli. The car, along with the accused driver, has been handed over to the Bunder police. – **Karavali Ale, 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

### **27.4.2022. Vittal.**

On obtaining the information about four cows being transported Saaja to Punacha in a pick-up van, activists of a Sangh Parivar organization were waiting at Kukkebettu in the early hours today. When they intercepted the vehicle it stopped, however the driver managed to escape. In the meantime, the police from Vittal station arrived, took the vehicle with the cows into their custody and registered a case. – **Karavali Ale, 28<sup>th</sup>.**

### **27.4.2022. Uppinangady.**

Uppinangady police registered a case against four men who had allegedly assaulted a woman and her domestic help at Mannagundi in Kaukradi of Kadaba taluk. The 39-year-old victim in her complaint said that her domestic help Kumar was returning home after grazing cow on April 27. He was then allegedly assaulted by Mahesh and three others. The complainant, on rushing to the spot, had questioned Mahesh and others for assaulting Kumar. One accused allegedly assaulted her with his hand and some other objects. The men who initially had promised to bear the expenses of hospitalisation later backed out. The police have booked cases under sections 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons), 354 (assaults or uses criminal force on any woman, intending to outrage her modesty) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of IPC. – **Deccan Herald May 1.**

In a video that has gone viral on the social media the woman says she runs a shop at Periyashanti. She says she used to bring the calf with her every day and tie it up near the shop for grazing. After closing the shop at 7.30 in the evening she used to take the calf back home with the help of her employee Kumar. On April 27 Mahesh and others said to be members of BJP and Bajrang Dal tried to assault Kumar. When the woman intervened, they physically attacked her alleging that the calf was being taken for slaughter. The gang then pulled at her *mangalasutra* and tore her clothes. – **Vartha Bharati, May 1.**

### **1.5.2022. Vittal.**

When activists of Bajrang Dal found out that cattle was being transported illegally at Kepulagudda near Kanyana, they tipped off the police. The latter rushed to the spot and took the cattle and the vehicle into their custody. However, the accused managed to escape. – **Karavali Ale, 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **3.5.2022. Vittal.**

Police arrested one person and confiscated 30 to 40 kg beef from an illegal slaughterhouse near Sattikallubailu of Kedila village in the taluk. Hindu Jagarana Vedike (HJV) members gave a tip off to the police about the spot where the illegal slaughterhouse was operating. Accused Sattar, who is alleged to have involved in the illegal slaughtering is arrested by the police. Puttur city police are investigating further. – **Daijiworld.com, 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=954272>

### **18.7.2022. Mulky.**

Suspecting that Abdul Khader (60) of Soorinje was engaged in illegal, door to door sale of beef, activists of the Mulky Suratkal branch of a hindutva organization caught hold of him and handed him over to the Mulky police station. The police arrested Abdul Khader and have begun an investigation into the matter. – **Vartha Bharati, 19<sup>th</sup>**.

### **19.7.2022. Bellare.**

A 19-year-old Muslim man succumbed to his injuries in Karnataka's Mangaluru on Thursday, July 21, two days after he was allegedly assaulted by members of a rightwing Hindutva outfit. Masud, a painter by profession, and originally from Kerala had been staying at his grandmother's house in Kelanje village of Karnataka for the last month. He has four siblings in Kerala. His father is no more.

Police have registered a case and arrested eight people, all of whom are members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad-Bajrang Dal. They have been identified as Sudhir, Sunil Kelanje, Abhilash Bellare, Jim Ranjith, Shivaprasad, Bhaskar, Ranjith and Sadashiva. Posts circulating on social media have identified Abhilash Bellare as the Akhada Pramukh of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad-Bajrang Dal's Valmikhi Shakha at Bellare, Sunil Kelanje as the 'Gau Raksha' Pramukh of the same outfit, and Ranjith as its Suraksha Pramukh. *The Wire* has not been able to confirm whether the three held these positions but has confirmed that all eight were indeed members of the rightwing outfit. The two organisations, VHP and Bajrang Dal, are understood to function as a single composite unit in the area. Of the eight accused, Bellare, Ranjith and Kelanje have criminal history. Four out of the eight had been charged under section 107 (imposed on wilful offenders) during July 9-10, the weekend of Eid ul-Adha, in a different case.

A week before Eid, Masud had purchased a three-month-old calf, said 24-year-old Shanif, Masud's friend since childhood. Upon having been tipped off, police visited their house to inquire into whether Masud intended to slaughter it. Masud, in fact, wanted to rear the cow, says his friend. "Since then, Masud had been saying that his neighbour Sudhir had been giving him hostile stares and has attempted to intimidate him by keeping a watch on him whenever he took the calf out for grazing. He had told this to me and I had suggested that he ignore it and try to avoid contact with him," said Shanif, who works in Bengaluru and had gone to Kelanje for Eid. On July 19, Sudhir and Masud had a heated argument, in the course of which they both physically assaulted each other. Hours later, Sudhir lured Masud to a secluded spot in the village and severely beat him up along with seven others.

"All these people reached Kelanje at around 10:45 pm," says Shanif, narrating how they managed to get Masud to the spot. He says, the group began calling out to Masud from the streets. "Listening to this loud shouts, I came out of my house and asked what was happening. They insisted that I bring Masud to the place. I initially refused to since I thought these people would attack Masud. But, Sunil promised me, swearing on the temple of Vishnu Nagar, that the goal was to solve the quarrel peacefully with mediation and said that they will

not do anything to Masud,” he says. Shanif says because Sunil swore at the temple and were neighbours whom he knew, he did not think that he would go back on his words. Now, he is wracked by remorse. “I have not been able to face Masud’s mother since,” he says. Shanif, along with his cousin Nasir, reached Masud’s house at around 11 pm. “I convinced Masud’s mother that we will resolve this once and for all and brought Masud to the spot where they were waiting for us. When we reached the place, the group attacked us ruthlessly with stones and bottles. I tried to protect Masud but I was also hit and injured,” says Shanif. “Abhilash (one of the accused) then hit Masud’s head hard with a soda bottle,” he adds.

Masud eventually managed to flee. A police patrolling party soon arrived at the spot and drove away the attackers. Shanif and his friends started looking for Masud but were unable to find him for more than two hours. They found him lying down near a well, unconscious. It was around 2 am then. They took him to a local hospital, which declared him serious and he was shifted to Mangaluru, around 50 kilometres away, for better treatment. Three of the accused, Sunil, Shivprasad and Sudhir also accompanied Masud to the local hospital. They allegedly lied to hospital staff, saying Masud had been injured in a fall. The three left for home as Shanif and others took Masud to Mangaluru. Masud’s family informed police soon after, and Sunil and others were arrested. Doctors at Mangaluru, after examining Masud, informed his family that a brain surgery cannot be conducted as there is a blood clot. Two days after the attack on him, Masud passed away at the hospital.

The FIR registered against the accused invokes various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including sections 143 (Being member of an unlawful assembly), 147, 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 302 (murder) and 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object). Head constable of Bellare station, Balakrishna, told *The Wire* that all eight were arrested the day after the incident in the morning. “Even the SI visited the spot on the night of the incident. Initially, along with other section, attempt to murder [307] was used, now it has been changed to 302 [murder],” he said. – ***The Wire*, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

<https://thewire.in/communalism/karnataka-vhp-bajrang-dal-muslim-injuries>

### **31.8.2022. Kadaba.**

Activists of Bajrang Dal intercepted a vehicle carrying cattle at Kodimbala and handed it over to the police. It is alleged that three heads of cattle were being transported from Enekallu near Subramanya to an unauthorised slaughterhouse at Kodimbala. – ***Karavali Ale*, September 3.**

### **6.11.2022. Mangaluru.**

The local administration permitting nine beef stalls in the new Central Market has drawn the ire of right wing body Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). Citing ban on beef trade by the ruling BJP government under The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, VHP has expressed anger against Mangaluru City Corporation. Contrary to the ban, the BJP-led MCC has allowed opening of beef stalls in the new central market being constructed under the Smart City project at a cost of Rs 114 crores. A blueprint has been prepared to open nine beef stalls on the ground floor. As of now, in the 3-D blueprint of the market, maps of nine beef stalls are mentioned. The new Central market will be constructed in 18 months under private and public partnership. After the construction of the building, stalls will be given through bidding.

VHP has expressed anger that along with vegetable stalls and chicken stalls, the MCC had provided space for beef stalls. "Allowing nine beef stalls is not fair. The Smart City Committee should drop this. If not dropped, a vehement protest will be staged," said VHP leader Sharan Pumpwell. – ***Daijiworld.com*, 6<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1017082>

## **ACT AS PER LAW IN SETTING UP BEEF STALLS AT CENTRAL MARKET: KHADER TO OFFICIALS**

Deputy Leader of Opposition in Assembly, U T Khader said that the officials should act as per the law in connection with the construction of beef stalls in Central Market. “BJP has no genuine reason. Everything is being politicized when the elections are nearing. Why did the BJP government fail to close down 11 factories engaged in the export of beef in Karnataka?” he sought to know. – **Deccan Herald, November 9.**

### **14.11.2022. Bantwal.**

Members of Hindu Jagarana Vedike (HJV) waylaid an autorickshaw in which a calf was being transported for slaughtering and caught hold of the accused and handed them over to the police. This incident was reported from Thenkabelloor. The auto rickshaw was moving from Kallugudde to Ammunje, when the HJV workers stopped it at Thenkabelloor and handed over accused Gopal and Rafeez to the police.

In another incident that occurred at Kanyana near Vittal, HJV activists caught hold of Mohammed and Masood, who were transporting a calf and handed them over to the police. – **Daijiworld.com, 14<sup>th</sup>.**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1019558>

### **29.11.2022. Mangaluru.**

Following a viral video of a beef biriyani at a hotel which was circulating in social media, Konaje police raided Taj canteen near Mudipu on Tuesday. It is learnt police found beef biriyani and beef in the hotel during their inspection. Sources revealed that the hotel owner Husain has been taken into custody by the police. The raid followed the information passed on to the police by local Hindu Jagarana Vedike activists. It is learnt activists of the organisations had also accompanied the police during the raid. – **Mangalore Today, 30<sup>th</sup>.**

<https://www.mangaloretoday.com/main/Following-viral-video-of-beef-biriyani-cops-raid-Mudipu-hotel-detain-1-person.html>

### **3.12.2022. Bantwal.**

Acting on a tip-off, activists of a Hindutva organization waylaid an Ape autorickshaw that was illegally transporting cattle in near Kandoor close to Marnabail of Sajipamunnur village and handed over the cattle and the accused Vishwanatha Baltila and Maxim to the police. – **Karavali Ale, 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## **And it's not just Muslims who are engaged in cattle transport:**

### **(A) Incidents Involving Non- Muslims**

*An Example:*

#### **9.8.2022. Moodabidri.**

A police team comprising SI Siddappa, ASI Kumar and others seized a pickup van near the Vidyagiri Junction on Tuesday August 9 and found them to be illegally transporting three cows on conducting a search of the vehicle. When the police enquired the accused including the driver of the vehicle Sandesh Shetty it came to

light that they did not have any permit to transport cattle. On police interrogation, it was also found that the accused had reportedly bought the cows at a low price from Alangar Naveen's farm to convert it into beef and were in the process of handing it over to someone at Kaikamba. The police took the accused, their vehicle and the cattle that they were transporting into custody. – **Daijiworld.com, 10<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=988021>

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## **Hate Speech/Crime**

### **Allegedly by *Hindutvavadis***

#### **1.1.2022. Udupi.**

A few girl students in the Government PU College for Girls in Udupi have said that they are not being allowed to attend classes for wearing hijab (head scarf). Talking to reporters on December 31, 2021, a group of six PU students said that they were not allowed to attend classes for the last three days. The students said that while students from other communities are being allowed to follow their religious practices, they are being denied it.

Denying the charge, college principal Rudre Gowda told reporters that only a few among the 40 Muslim students are sporting hijab. He has spoken to parents of those children, Mr. Gowda said and added that the parents have agreed that their wards will not wear hijab in classrooms. Deputy Director of PU Education Maruthi said that the college administration has called for a meeting of parents and teachers on January 2, 2022. Udupi Deputy Commissioner M. Kurma Rao said that he has sought a report from Mr. Maruthi. – **The Hindu, January 1.**

Disallowing the demand of six pre university students to allow them to wear hijab in their classrooms, the Government PU College for Girls in Udupi has decided to continue with its uniform code that has been in vogue since 1985. Chairing a meeting of parents of the over 1,000 students on January 2, Udupi MLA and Chairman of College Development Committee K. Raghupati Bhat said that the college will continue with its uniform code, which includes a veil, as has been decided by the committee. This uniform is common for all girls from different communities and this has been made clear to students at the time of their admission. Asking parents not to bring religion into college affairs, Mr. Bhat said that the uniform has not been objected to by most of the parents of the over 1,000 students who hail from different parts of the State. Therefore, there is no question of accepting the demand of the six students to allow them to wear hijab. If their parents are not agreeable to the uniform code, they are open to opt for admission in another PU college, he said.

A parent of one of the six students said that he cannot compromise on their practices and he will admit his daughter in another college.

Deputy Director of Pre University Department Maruthi attended the meeting.

The six students on December 31, 2021 said that they were not allowed to attend classes for the last several days as they went to college wearing hijab. They also said that the college was discriminating against Muslim students and preventing them from speaking in Beary and Urdu, which, however, the college management refuted.

Meanwhile, in a statement, Campus Front of India said that it will launch a protest if the college fails to allow the six girls to wear hijab in classrooms. – *The Hindu, January 2.*

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/college-refutes-charge-by-students/article38084949.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/college-in-udupi-decides-to-continue-with-dress-code/article38090910.ece>

#### **4.1.2022. Mangaluru.**

Bajrang Dal activists have put up banners against the Christian faith at several places in Kotekar village. Objecting to this, Alwyn D'Souza, president of the Minority Cell of Congress Party's Ullal Block submitted a memorandum to the Ullal police asking them to get the banners vacated and to take legal action against the culprits. – *Vartha Bharati, 5<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **4.1.2022. Mangaluru.**

The Vittal police have registered a case under IPC 505 against Vishnuprasad Niddaje, an officer of the Federal Bank, for his communally provocative comments on facebook. The Popular Front of India had lodged a complaint at the Vittal police station stating that Vishnuprasad had indirectly called for the massacre of Muslims. – *Karavali Ale, 4<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **5.1.2022. Mulky.**

Pompei College at Aikala witnessed Hijab and saffron shawl issue on Wednesday January 5. Hindu students wore saffron shawls opposing wearing of Hijab by Muslim girl students. The administration of the college came to know of the issue and held a meeting in this connection and the institution was closed as a precaution in the afternoon. The Hindu students said that they will not remove saffron shawls until Muslim girl students remove the Hijab. It may be recalled, similar issues were witnessed at colleges in Udupi and Chikkamagaluru earlier. – *daijiworld.com, 6<sup>th</sup>.*

The Pompei College in Aikala held a meeting with students on January 6 and decided to stick to the rule that students should wear college uniform in the face of a controversy that arose after a section of students came to college sporting saffron shawls on January 5.

Objecting to some students coming to the college with scarves, a group of students came to the college sporting shawls. They said that they have the support of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and the Bajrang Dal. And, a representative of these students met the college principal later and said that if no action is taken to stop wearing of scarves, then more students will come to the college with shawls.

The college management was surprised with this development as girls have been coming to college for many years wearing scarves. "We were surprised with the objection now. There was no prior representation by these students to the principal questioning students wearing scarves," said a representative of the college management.

The college's governing council on Thursday held a meeting of students, parents and lecturers. Representatives from the Department of Collegiate Education, Mangalore University, and the police also

attended the meeting. Following an hour-long deliberation, the college management asked students to come to college from Monday by wearing uniform. – **The Hindu, 7<sup>th</sup>**.

### **18.1.2022. Karkala.**

Another incident of hurting the religious sentiments of people who revere and worship Koragajja deity was reported from Edu village in the taluk. It is said that the deity was shown poor light by a person who donned the role of Koragajja. He uploaded his photo in Koragajja get-up in WhatsApp status in a senseless act. Raveendra from Edu village reportedly wore the costumes and make-up of Koragajja on Jan 18. There have been certain other allegations against him. It is said that he works for a Yakshagana (local folk theater) Mela. It is said that when the issue was taken up with him over phone, Reveendra said that he had done nothing wrong and that even hereafter he will continue to post his status, duly depicting other characters. On the basis of hurting religious sentiments and communal harmony, a case against Raveendra has been registered in Karkala rural police station, based on a complaint filed by Chetan. Police circle inspector, Sampath Kumar and other staff visited the residence of Raveendra and put together more information. – **daijiworld.com, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=918001>

### **26.1.2022. Mangaluru.**

Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal had displayed a poster in a ground at Ullal Bail. The poster had asked non-Hindu traders to stay away from the two-day annual fair of a temple in Ullal beginning on February 2. The poster stated that only those who worship the Daivas and gods originating in this land will be allowed to conduct business at the fair. As soon as they came to know about the controversial poster having been displayed, local police arrived and removed it. – **daijiworld.com, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=919639>

### **2.2.2022. Udupi.**

More than 100 Hindu students attended classes in government PU college at Kundapura wearing saffron shawls in as a counter to Muslim girls wearing headscarves at the college. Kundapur MLA Halady Srinivas Shetty, who is also the president of college development committee, rushed to the college and attempted to arrive at an amicable solution. The Muslim girls and their parents remained firm on their decision to wear headscarves. Parents said their daughters were wearing hijab inside classrooms since the beginning of the academic year. Forcing them not to wear headscarves suddenly was not acceptable. The boys said they will continue to wear saffron shawls until headscarves were banned inside the classrooms.

Kundapur MLA Halady Srinivas Shetty, who is also the president of college development committee, rushed to the college and attempted to arrive at an amicable solution. The Muslim girls and their parents remained firm on their decision to wear headscarves. Parents said their daughters were wearing hijab inside classrooms since the beginning of the academic year. Forcing them not to wear headscarves suddenly was not acceptable. The boys said they will continue to wear saffron shawls until headscarves were banned inside the classrooms. Sources in the college said, with the minister instructing the college to adhere to the college's uniform code, the development committee has decided not to allow students wearing shawls or headscarves inside the classrooms. – **Deccan Herald, 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/now-kundapur-students-wear-saffron-shawls-to-college-1077503.html>

### **5.2.2022. Udupi.**

The hijab-saffron shawl issue continued on the fourth day in Kundapur town of Udupi district with students of two private colleges taking out separate processions by wearing saffron shawls on Saturday, February 5. A large number of students from Bandarkar Pre-University College took part in the procession that started from a temple nearby. This college is among a few in Kundapur that has barred wearing saffron shawls and also hijab, following a controversy that started in the Government PU College for Girls and Government PU College in Kundapur. The Bandarkar college students were stopped at the entrance and allowed inside after they removed the shawls. There was a heavy police presence at the college. Meanwhile, a delegation of parents met the college management and submitted a representation seeking permission to allow their children to wear hijab in the classroom till a decision is made by the State Government on the dress code. The management representatives were non-committal on the representation, the parents said.

At the R.N. Shetty PU College, students entered the college with saffron shawl alleging that lecturers have allowed some girls to wear hijab in the classroom. Following a confrontation with students, the college management declared a holiday and sent away the students. These students took out a procession.

The Government PU College, Kundapur, which has declared a holiday for students, held a meeting of the college betterment committee on Saturday. The committee decided to continue with the present bar on students from entering the campus with hijab and saffron shawl till a decision is made by the Government and the Karnataka High Court. Meanwhile, writ petitions by six students of Government PU College for Girls in Udupi, where the issue started, will come up for hearing in High Court on February 8. – **The Hindu, 6<sup>th</sup>.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/college-students-march-wearing-saffron-shawls/article38387105.ece>

The Kundapur police have arrested two persons who had arrived with lethal weapons at the spot where students were protesting outside Govt PU College in Kundapur on February 4. Acting on a tip-off that five persons with lethal weapons had arrived at the spot, PSI Sadashiva Gavaroji led a team and they were successful in arresting two persons. The arrested are Abdul Majeed (32) and Rajab (41). Both hail from Gangolli. The police are on the look-out for Khaleel, Rizwan and Ifthkar. A case has been registered at the Kundapur police station. – **Deccan Herald, 6<sup>th</sup>.**

### **5.2.2022. Kadaba.**

Sriram Friends Group of Koila village has lodged a complaint today at the Kadaba police station against an SDPI activist Ziyad for his insulting post in the social media about a Sangh Parvar outfit. Ziyad who hails from Kudlur in the Koila village of Kadaba taluk has allegedly shared the insulting message in his Twitter account. The message reads “The Sanghi boys, instead of wearing shawls should become eunuchs and then come to the college”. In its complaint, Sriram Friends Group has said that since such messages can disturb the peace in society the police should take necessary legal action. The police have registered a case against Ziyad. – **Karavali Ale, 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### **6.2.2022. Mangaluru.**

It is alleged that activists of the Sangh Parivar have removed a shop selling soda sherbet and sweet corn at Car Street. The shop, owned by a Muslim had been put up on January 31 during the annual fair of Venkataramana temple. But on the third day he was prevented from opening the shop allegedly by activists of the Sangh Parivar. – **Vartha Bharati, 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### **7.2.2022. Udupi.**

The controversy of wearing Hijab in college premises has spread to one more college in the city. Hindu students of MGM College in Manipal demanded that the Muslim girl students remove their Hijab on Monday February 7. Hindu students of the college have warned that they will wear saffron shawls to college if the Muslim girl students wear Hijab. The Hindu students are quoting the recent rule passed by the state government not to wear Hijab inside school and college premises. Principal of the college held meeting with students of both groups and asked the Muslim girl students to remove their Hijab while entering classroom from February 8. Hindu students have warned that they will wear saffron shawl, dhoti and Rudraksh beads if Muslim girl students will not remove their Hijab. Hindu Jagarana Vedike who already organized the students, warned through the students to stop wearing of Hijab inside college premises. – **daijiworld.com, 7<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=923773>

### **8.2.2022. Bantwal.**

Students of Government First Grade College in Vamadapadavu, in symbolic opposition to the wearing of the hijab, arrived at the college wearing saffron stoles. They said that out of 8 Muslim girl students 5 were wearing hijab. The students raised slogans against wearing of the hijab. Confusion and tension prevailed in the college for some time. After a meeting with the parents and the College Development Committee, the Principal Prof Hariprasad Shetty announced a holiday for the students. Police had strengthened security in and around the college. – **Deccan Herald, 9<sup>th</sup>**.

## **HOW THE KARNATAKA ANTI-HIJAB PROTESTS WERE PART OF A CALCULATED PLOT ACROSS THE STATE**

**Pooja Prasanna Follow @PoojaPrasanna4**

Visuals of students in saffron scarves and turbans protesting, chanting 'Jai Sri Ram', and in some cases heckling their classmates in hijab have consumed our screens in the past week. What started as a voice of assertion of their Muslim identity by one group of girls in a government pre-university college in Udupi has now spread across the state, with a legal battle raging in the Karnataka High Court, that will dictate a lot in terms of religious and person freedoms for not just Karnataka, but the rest of the country as well. So how did this saffron movement against the hijab start spreading, and who were the driving forces?

TNM has pieced together the timeline of events leading up to the widespread protests that the state saw on Tuesday, February 8. And what emerges is not the story of a spontaneous student movement, but a calculated Hindutva plot that has built on years of communal polarisation in Karnataka to mobilise students. In over 25 colleges, the protests by those opposing hijab were conspicuously similar – identical saffron scarves, 'Jai Sri Ram' chants, and the use of similar language in their opposition to hijab in classrooms. While some Hindutva organisations like the Hindu Jagarana Vedike (HJV), Bajrang Dal and Hindu Janajagruti Samiti asked students affiliated to them to organise the protests, they have also managed to bring students who have so far not been part of any such movements, into their fold.

## A timeline of saffron protests

For many high school and pre-university (PUC) students in Karnataka, physical classes started in July 2021, after over a year of educational institutions being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2021, a group of students at the Government PU College for girls in Udupi, petitioned the college authorities to wear the hijab inside their classrooms, and when the college refused, it led to a string of events.

By January 6, two saffron protests happened — at a college in Aikala in Mangaluru and another in Chikmagalur, where a group of students wore saffron scarves and said they will wear the Hindutva symbol to classes if Muslim girls are allowed to wear the hijab.

At the Chikmagalur college, protests have happened on and off since then, but the issue did not become bigger till the girls from the Government PU College for girls in Udupi went to court demanding their rights. The petition was filed by the students on January 31.

In less than a week after the HC started hearing the case, anti-hijab protests spread across Karnataka. As of February 9, saffron-clad students have protested in at least 12 districts in the state, including Chikmagalur, Hassan, Tumakuru, Mandya, Kalaburagi, Bagalkot, Haveri, Belagavi and Vijayapura.

As the hijab wearing girls in Udupi PU college were not allowed to enter classes and girls in hijab were barred from another college in Kundapur, Kalaburagi saw a protest on February 6 organised by Congress MLA of Kalaburgi North Kaneez Fathima demanding that the hijab wearing students in Udupi should be allowed to attend classes.

## How Hindutva groups organised students

In response, the Government PU College in Afzalpur taluk saw students wearing saffron shawls, protesting against seven students who wore hijab. This protest was organised by Sri Rama Sene and students.

Siddalinga Swamy of the Sri Rama Sene said that they wanted to counter the narrative of allowing hijab in classes. “Our student wing also took part, we managed to gather a total of 150 students for the protest,” he says. “We are running a campaign, urging students to put pressure on the education department and college authorities to enforce strict uniform in which hijab will not be allowed. To educate the students on this, we had called for a meeting on Sunday and gave instructions. We will continue the rest using social media,” he added.

After the protest, the college authorities convinced five of the seven students to remove their hijab and attend classes.

While Sri Rama Sene took the lead in Kalaburagi, it was the Hindu Jagarana Vedike (HJV) that led protests at Vijayapura district’s GRB Degree College. Like elsewhere in the state, saffron shawls were

used to oppose Muslim students wearing hijab in classes. Mahantesh, who was one of the students who wore a saffron shawl, said that the students of the college went to the Hindu Jagarana Vedike for 'guidance to counter the conspiracy' by those who were insisting on wearing hijabs in classrooms.

"A group of around 25 students wanted to show our solidarity with what is happening across the state. So we called the local HJV activist to ask how we can help. He was our senior from college so we met him," he tells TNM. "He told us to follow the same model that others are following: insist on wearing saffron shawls in classrooms till they stop wearing hijabs. He also invited us to a sabhe (meeting) of HJV over the weekend so we can get more involved with such causes," Mahantesh said.

In colleges in Hassan, the protesting students say they 'drew inspiration' from ABVP members. Praveen who studies in the Hassan Government Science College says that they had been following the developments in colleges in Udupi closely. And when the issue refused to die down, 'some ABVP friends' suggested that they too should join the protest. "They (ABVP members) are our friends and brothers. They showed us how, if we come together, we can fight for equality. Why should only Muslim girls be allowed to deviate from the uniform?" Praveen asked.

In the neighbouring district of Chikmagalur, too, organisations like the ABVP and HJV have been at the forefront of these protests, but on record, no one wants to take credit. While Shashi Aldur, district coordinator of ABVP, said that the organisation was not involved, he was simultaneously adamant that protests would continue irrespective of the High Court verdict. "No matter what the verdict is, even if one student wears a hijab we will continue with the protests. This will spread to every district in Karnataka," he said.

In Mandya, from where the video of a lone Muslim student in burqa being heckled by a group of male students donning saffron shawls and chanting 'Jai Sri Ram' has now gone viral, student Whatsapp groups were used to mobilise the crowd. TNM spoke to Umesh, a final year B.Com student who was one among protesters who targeted Muskan, a student in Mandya's PES College of Arts, Science and Commerce. Umesh said that they were not allowed to wear saffron shawls in college on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanthi in April last year. "We used the WhatsApp groups that were already formed for classes, to coordinate the protests. We did crowd-sourcing and pooled in money to buy saffron shawls. People gave money ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 1,000, as per their capacity, and we used this," he added.

Anti-hijab sentiment as a flashpoint for further Hindutva recruitment

While Bajrang Dal, VHP and Hindu Jagarana Vedike members have been seen openly encouraging students to protest, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) — student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) — has chosen to distance itself from the protests. On February 9, the ABVP said students are using both saffron shawls and hijab as weapons against each other and appealed to students to stop wearing both. The ABVP asked students to wear their uniforms and focus on education.

Aishwarya Shetty, ABVP's Karnataka state joint secretary said that they were not behind any of the protests. However, on further prodding, she said that WhatsApp groups were used to 'create awareness' among students and they were asked to organise themselves.

"The students wearing saffron shawls are not just ABVP members but all Hindu students. When students wear the saffron shawl, they are reminded of great personalities like Swami Vivekananda, Pejawar Sri and others," she told TNM.

There is an element of truth to Aishwarya's assertion. Across the three districts that this reporter travelled in, many students — both Hindu and Muslim — who had joined the protests, had no affiliation to any student groups.

"We are not members of any Hindu organisations so far, but what is wrong with them supporting us?" asked Chandra, a student of IDSG Government College, Chikmagalur. "Many students who are protesting with us are members of ABVP, HJV and Bajrang Dal. They are helping us (Hindus) fight back," he added.

Santhosh (name changed) was a part of the saffron protest in Koppa in Chikmagalur. "Saffron shawls are a part of our religion. All these organisations (Hindu organisations) have been working towards Hindu pride so they just point us in the right direction. They showed us how, if we keep getting oppressed, we will never get our rights," he added. He however admitted that the protests were primarily organised by Vinay Shivapura, a student of the Government First Grade College who is a prominent member of the ABVP.

As the Hindu students were being organised, protests by Muslim organisations and communities were also sporadically seen across the state. Protests were held by Muslims, particularly women from the community, against the hijab ban in colleges in districts like Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Chikmagalur, Chamarajanagar, Hubballi, Mandya, Belagavi, Chitradurga, Vijayapura and Kalaburagi. Some of the protests were attended and organised by members of political outfits like the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and Campus Front of India (CFI).

An SFI leader in the region said that ABVP has been polarising students in Karnataka for many years now. "Routinely, they share hate messages against Muslims and even Christians on student WhatsApp groups," he said. "It is laughable if ABVP says they are not organising protests. They have been tutoring students on how to oppose other faiths. They give instructions about what to say when the media speaks to them, how to handle when lecturers don't allow them in classes. They clearly assure them of support if students get into trouble because of these protests." – *The News Minute*, 10<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/how-karnataka-anti-hijab-protests-were-part-calculated-plot-across-state-160846>

## 'AGITATING GIRLS HAD NOT WORN HEADSCARVES IN BEGINNING'

One of the classmates to three students who are agitating demanding the right to wear hijab described her agitating classmates as adamant who at one point of time did not bother to wear headscarves. Speaking to a section of reporters on the condition of anonymity, the girl said that the college has made all attempts to sort out the issue. She said her classmates wear hijab only while coming inside and remove it when they go out. Except for these six, all other Muslim girls are following the rules put forth by the college, she added. She said these girls were not wearing hijab since the beginning. The girls voluntarily took part in a protest held by ABVP. They were asked to remove the headscarves but they were adamant about not removing them and protested against the college administration, she said.

The photo that has gone viral with girls wearing hijab and sitting inside the classroom is far from true. Only a few girls who were not aware of the rules would wear the headscarves. However, when they were oriented towards the rules and regulations, they stopped wearing Hijab, said the student. She added that the II PU exam timetable is announced. The government should start the classes and a conducive environment for learning should be ensured. "The controversial issue should be sorted out at the earliest as we are losing our concentration for learning," she said. – *Deccan Herald, 12<sup>th</sup>*.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/agitating-girls-had-not-worn-headscarves-in-beginning-1080900.html> 2/2

## KARNATAKA SCHOOL GOES BEYOND HC'S ORDER, MAKES TEACHERS REMOVE BURQA IN PUBLIC

**TNM Staff**

As high schools in Karnataka reopened on Monday, February 14, zealous school authorities in Mandya forced teachers to remove their hijab and burqa on the road on Monday, refusing to allow them to enter the school campus before doing so. Visuals from Rotary Education Society in the district have surfaced where at least two staff members under heavy scrutiny can be seen being forced to remove their hijab and burqa in public before entering the school. The overreaching staff was also seen stopping girl students from entering the school wearing hijabs and roundly ignoring fervent requests from students and their parents alike to be allowed inside the school compound before removing it. The students were allowed inside the campus only after they removed their hijabs.

Schools were reopened on Monday, February 14 after being shut by the state government in light of the ongoing hijab row. The Karnataka High Court in its interim order passed on Friday, February 11, had barred only students from wearing religious attire like hijab and saffron shawl in classrooms of schools where there is an existing uniform mandate. But this did not stop school authorities in Mandya from forcing embarrassed teachers to forego their religious attire on the pavement, while their movements were being caught on camera.

When TNM reached out to officials, they said that the district authority had not issued any direction restricting teachers or other school staff and asked schools not to put such restrictions. Javaregowda, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, in Mandya said, “The Deputy Commissioner has said it is only applicable to students and not teachers. The court order is about the children. We have nothing to do in this. In some places they have imposed this dress code on teachers and we have asked them not to as the order is only applicable to children.”

Following the High Court interim order, students in the state were not allowed to enter their school premises. In Shivamogga district, some students refused to remove their hijab and chose to skip their Class 10 preparatory exam. Reports from Kalaburagi said that students were allowed to attend classes wearing the hijab as it is permitted in the Government Urdu School of Jewargi.

The Karnataka High Court is presently hearing the matter.

Meanwhile, pre-university and degree colleges continue to remain shut till February 16 after the state saw multiple instances of minor violence on February 9. The state government is expected to take a call on reopening pre-university and university colleges on Monday evening. There are restrictions on holding protests over the issue and Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code has been imposed in Udupi and Mangaluru.

Opposition party Congress is expected to raise the issue in the state Assembly as the budget session of the Assembly began on Monday. Several MLAs and MLCs of the party wore black ribbons as a mark of protest during Governor Thawarchand Gehlot’s joint address to the legislature. – *The News Minute*, 14<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/karnataka-school-goes-beyond-hcs-order-makes-teachers-remove-burqa-public-160964>

## Some Fallout

<https://sabrangindia.in/article/hijab-case-will-action-be-taken-against-karnataka-bjp-sharing-details-minor-muslim>

<https://sabrangindia.in/article/hijab-controversy-now-hits-schools>

<https://thewire.in/rights/karnataka-chaos-at-colleges-after-burqa-clad-students-barred-entry>

## **DEGREE COLLEGES STOP STUDENTS IN HIJABS DESPITE KARNATAKA CM'S CLARIFICATION**

While Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has clarified that there is no ban on wearing the hijab in degree colleges across the state, in reality, many students are being denied permission to do the same. Currently wearing hijab or any other religious attire by students is banned by an interim order from the Karnataka High Court in high schools and PU colleges, where there is an uniform mandate prescribed by the College Development Committees.

In a video taken on Thursday, February 17, police can be seen stopping students wearing the hijab in Mandya's PES College of Engineering. The students can be heard saying that even Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan has said that the High Court order is not applicable to degree colleges. She is heard saying, "We are under mental pressure to show what they are doing. They are clearly discriminating. Education minister has himself said that there is nothing. Now what? If they give us mental pressure, what should we do? Should we die?" as one police man is seen threatening them with detention and a legal case.

According to reports, First Grade College in Kavour (Mangaluru), Government Engineering College in Raichur, Saraladevi College in Ballari, Uppinangady Degree College in Dakshina Kannada district, Siddheshwar Degree College in Gadag district and Field Marshal KM Cariappa College in Kodagu were among the other colleges that had stopped students from entering the college for wearing hijab.

There were also reports of some persons being detained by police for protesting against the hijab ban. One such incident was reported from Vijaya College in Belagavi on Thursday. Small-scale protests were carried out across the state in places like Ballari and Hubballi.

Degree colleges in the state were reopened on Wednesday, February 16 after the state government had shut high schools and colleges on February 9. The closure came as protests for and against the hijab intensified in different parts of Karnataka and minor incidents of violence were reported in some parts on February 9. Following that high schools began functioning again on February 14 after the HC requested the state government to reopen educational institutions and prohibit protests over the matter.

When the issue was raised in the Assembly on Wednesday, February 16, CM Bommai said the state government is committed towards implementing the HC order. He mentioned that the bar on wearing hijab was not applicable to degree colleges as there is no prescribed uniform. The CM was speaking when Leader of Opposition and ex-CM Siddaramaiah sought clarification on Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Naryan stating that students are free to wear hijabs in degree colleges.

"The Higher Education Minister has stated the facts. He has said that dress code is applicable where the rules exist and it is not there for higher education institutions or degree colleges," Bommai said.

The CM further said that the High Court's interim order is also very clear — where there is dress code, it has to be followed, and it is not applicable where it does not exist. "Things are very clear, our government will abide by the High Court order," he added. – *The News Minute*, 17<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/degree-colleges-stop-students-hijabs-despite-karnataka-cms-clarification-161095>

## **INTERIM ORDER ON HIJAB BAN APPLIES TO BOTH DEGREE & PU COLLEGES, CLARIFIES HC**

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday, 23 February, clarified that its interim order from 10 February applied to both degree colleges and pre-university colleges, where uniforms were prescribed. The court further clarified that the order applied only to students and not teachers.

"If a uniform is prescribed, it has to be followed, whether it is Degree College or PU College." - Karnataka High Court.

This comes a day after a single-judge bench of the high court refused to grant interim relief to students of a degree college who had asked for protection of their right to wear the hijab.

At the end of Wednesday's hearing – on the petitions filed by Muslim girls seeking protection of their right to wear hijab in educational institutions – advocate Mohammad Tahir mentioned applications moved by students of Bhandakar College of Arts and Science, Udupi, seeking clarification on the interim order.

### WHAT DID THE PETITIONERS' LAWYER SAY?

Tahir had argued that even colleges with no prescribed uniform were now citing the interim order and stopping hijab-wearing Muslim students. He also submitted that the college had told the single-judge bench that they had passed a resolution to bring in a uniform, but pointed out that even the rule book allowed girls to wear headscarves.

"The arrangement cannot be done immediately. One fine morning, the institution comes and says they have prescribed uniform, and so the interim order is applicable." - Advocate Mohammad Tahir

On 10 February, the Karnataka High Court had agreed to continue hearing the pleas filed by the girls but had refused to pass an interim order that would have allowed them to continue wearing hijabs until the court arrived at a final decision.

While directing the reopening of colleges in the state, the judges had also controversially ordered that no student should wear any religious clothing while the court continues to hear the case.

"Pending consideration of all these petitions, we restrain all the students regardless of their religion or faith from wearing saffron shawls (Bhagwa), scarfs, hijab, religious flags, or the like within the classroom, until further orders." - Karnataka High Court. – *The Quint*, 23<sup>rd</sup>.

<https://www.thequint.com/news/law/hijab-ban-hearing-continues-in-karnataka-high-court>

## COASTAL CAMPUSES POLARISED ON RELIGIOUS LINES AS SECULAR ORGANISATIONS LOSE GROUND

### K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj

The weakening of secular student organisations especially in the coastal region of Karnataka has further polarised students along religious and ideological lines. So when Aliya Assadi, 17 — one of the six students at Government Girls' Pre-University College, Udupi, who is at the centre of the hijab row — “unwittingly” participated in a protest organised by the Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad she immediately came under pressure.

That she took part in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-affiliated ABVP protest against the rape of a student in Manipal in October 2021, did not go down well with her community. “My college principal mobilised students and sent us for the protests without telling us it was an ABVP event. As my hijab clad pictures in the protest went viral, I came under huge pressure from my parents, relatives and the community. I was even trolled online,” she said.

BJP leaders allege that another student organisation, the largely Muslim dominated Campus Front of India (CFI), reached out to Muslim students like Aliya who participated in the protest, reprimanded them and instigated the hijab row. While students and CFI deny this, the organisation is supporting Aliya and her peers in their fight to wear the hijab to class.

With the ascent of BJP in the coastal belt, its affiliate ABVP has had an almost unchallenged run for nearly two decades now, “often supported by faculty and college managements themselves”, said K. Phaniraj, who teaches at Manipal and is a prominent civil society voice of the region. In what seems like a response to this trend, CFI is growing from strength to strength on campuses in the region, organising mainly Muslim students. Though it claims to be independent, sources say it is closely associated with Popular Front of India (PFI).

Secular student organisations like the Congress-affiliated National Students Union of India (NSUI), Left parties associated Students Federation of India (SFI) and Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and all colleges unions that once dominated the campuses have lost ground. A cross-section of students admitted that interactions “across the divide” are rare, often criminalised and stigmatised by moral policing incidents.

Campuses are only a reflection of the larger society, said Muneer Katipalla, State president, DYFI. He said segregation of students along religious lines takes place mainly in schools in the coastal districts. “Over the last two decades, Hindus and Muslims have been sending their wards to schools managed by their communities. When these kids enter college, they interact across religious lines for the first time. They are not comfortable with these interactions. This is why secular organisations like ours find it hard to recruit students,” he explained.

Senior Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad, a former student leader himself, conceded that NSUI had become weak in the region and rejuvenating it would offer an answer to the communal polarisation on campuses.

Attaullah Punjalkatte, State president, CFI, denies they are a “communal” organisation. “It is true that we are presently dominated by Muslims. But we have taken up several campaigns concerning students across the spectrum,” he said.

However, those in the organisation admit that the hijab row has provided CFI with a robust recruitment drive. Office-bearers have been contacting Muslim girl students denied entry into education institutions for wearing hijabs, following the interim order of the Karnataka High Court, offering them assistance, sources said. – *The Hindu*, 24<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/coastal-campuses-polarised-on-religious-lines-as-secular-organisations-lose-ground/article65079040.ece>

### **20.2.2022. Bantwal.**

A complaint has been filed against Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh stalwart, Kalladka Dr Prabhakar Bhat, in the town police station here. Bantwal block youth Congress president, Suresh Jora, in his complaint dated March 1, has accused Dr Bhat of delivering an address in Devandabettu temple in Kallige village in a religious meeting in which he had spoken in a way that was in the form of insulting the national flag. He also has charged Kalladka of uploading the said speech in a social website in an attempt to disturb peace in the society. In his complaint, Jora said that in the address mentioned above that was delivered inside the said temple on February 20, Dr Bhat had not only spoken in a way that was derogatory of the national flag but also in the form of instigating communal passions. He alleged that video clips of the said address are being shared in social websites and therefore there is an apprehension of peace in the society getting disturbed. – *Vartha Bharati*, March 2.

## **HIJAB CONTROVERSY: UDUPI GIRLS WHO MOVED HC REFUSE TO ATTEND PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS WITHOUT HEADSCARF**

### **The controversy over dress code started in Government Pre-University College for Girls in Udupi before spreading to other colleges in Karnataka**

The practical examinations for second-year science students began at the Government Pre-University College for Girls in Udupi on February 28 with the college not allowing students to appear for the examinations wearing hijab.

The controversy over dress code spread to other colleges in Karnataka from this pre-university college after six students demanded permission to wear hijab in the classroom. As the college refused, they approached the Karnataka High Court. The final verdict of the court is awaited.

Of the six students, three – Almas A H, Hazra Shifa and Bibi Ayesha – are in the science stream. They arrived in the college on February 28 wearing hijab to appear for the examination. But Principal Rudre Gowda did not allow them to enter the exam centre wearing a hijab citing the interim order of the High Court. The students returned home.

On February 23, the students had met Maruthi, Deputy Director of the Department of Pre-University in Udupi, with a request to postpone their practical examinations, starting from February 28, for three days as they could not attend classes due to the hijab controversy. The Pre University Board did not entertain their demand.

Later, Ms. Almas tweeted: “Today was our final practical exam. We had completed our record books and went in great hopes to attend the practical exam. It was so disheartening when our principal threatened us saying ‘you have 5 minutes to leave, if you don’t leave, I will file a police complaint’.”

“Right now, we should have been in our labs attending the practicals, not compelled to leave. The hopes I had from my college and my dreams are getting shattered due to the hatred sowed against hijab.”

Denying the allegation of the student, the principal told mediapersons that he tried explaining to the students on the need to follow the interim order of the High Court. They opted to return home without appearing for the examinations, Mr. Gowda said.

In Ullal, Bharath Composite Pre University College at Mastikatte, on the outskirts of Mangaluru, which declared a holiday from February 25 following protests by students over hijab, did not open for classes on February 28.

This college, which allowed girls to wear hijab in the classroom till February 23, asked them to remove it on February 24 citing the February 22 circular of the pre-university department, which mentioned the interim order of the High Court and to create a separate enclosure for girls to remove their hijab.

Later, 20 girls refused to remove the hijab and staged a protest on February 25. They got support from some boys. – **The Hindu, February 28.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/hijab-controversy-udupi-girls-who-moved-hc-refuse-to-attend-practical-examinations-without-headscarf/article65092553.ece>

### **1.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

The Dakshina Kannada district committee of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) has registered a complaint at the Pandeshwar (Mangaluru South) police station against Kirik Keerti alias Keerti Shankarghatta, Mahesh Vikram Hegde and an unknown, fake burqa-clad woman. The complaint alleges that these three persons have created the part of a fake burqa-clad Muslim student and produced a video in order to create enmity between two communities, provoke them by creating a disturbance and insulted a religion. This video has been made and uploaded by Keerti on an unofficial U-Tube channel called TV Vikrama on February 18 and has been shared by Mahesh Vikram Hegde too. Hence cases should be registered against the threesome and they should be arrested, SDPI has urged. – **Vartha Bharati, 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **3.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

The hijab-clad student who was prevented from entering P Dayanada Pai first grade government college by a group of students at Car Street has urged stringent action against a student Sai Sandesh for allegedly harassing her.

Hibha Sheik, a second year student of BSc along with five other hijab clad students was denied entry by a group of students opposing them. It may be recalled that two groups of students from P Dayananda Pai and the P Satish Pai Government First Grade College in city had confronted each other over hijab issue a few days ago.

Addressing the media here on Monday March 7, Hibha Sheik said, "On March 3, we had an examination. We approached the principal seeking his permission to attend the examination. The principal gave a permission letter to the first year students, while also allowing us to write the examination. He also asked us to wear a shawl. The principal even guaranteed us that no issue would take place since he had given permission."

The Akila Bharatiya Vidhyarti Parishad (ABVP) student wing members were noticing us when we were about to enter the examination hall. A student among them by name Sai Sandesh threatened us to leave the classroom and go out of the college. He questioned us for writing the examination. The lecturers were just mute spectators when Sai Sandesh kept threatening us. Sai Sandesh even exerted pressure on the principal to send us out of the college. Here the principal took a U-turn and claimed that he had not given any kind of permission," alleged Hibha Sheik.

"Who gave him the right to tell us to go out of the college? We both are students having equal rights. He has no right to order us to leave the college. I'm not saying the principal was wrong but he should not have lied that he did not give permission," she added.

Hibha Sheik also said, "Some of my friends were being threatened by a policeman named Raghavendra who said he will spoil our future. Even the college peon was denying us permission to enter the canteen and we were not supposed to use water in the college campus. We were even termed as terrorists by the college peon."

"A day after filing the complaint, Sai Sandesh filed a complaint that he is being threatened by posting his objectionable photos on social media. I have no role in the threatening of Sai Sandesh. Unnecessarily, I have been blamed for threatening. I strongly condemn the threatening of Sai Sandesh on social media," Hibha said

"The police have taken our complaint against Sai Sandesh but they have not mentioned the right sections relevant to the harassment case. Sai Sandesh's classmates Lohith and others are continuously threatening us through messages," alleged Hibha Sheik. – **dajiworl.com, 7<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.dajiworl.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=934261>

The clash between students over the issue of wearing hijab at P Dayananda Pai and P Satish Pai Government First Grade College resulted in as many as three cases being filed in North and in CEN (Cyber, Economics and Narcotics) police station, Mangaluru Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar said on March 8. On March 4, based on the complaint of Hiba Shek from Uppala in Kasargod, Bunder police had registered a case under section 323 (punishment for causing hurt) and 504 (provoking people to break peace) of IPC against Sanath Shetty, Sai Sandesha and 15 members of the ABVP. Hiba's friends also filed another case in the North police station. Close on the heels of death threats being issued against a student Sai Sandesha on social media, the CEN police station registered a case based on the complaint of Kavana Shetty. All sections were framed based on legal opinions, said the Commissioner. No FIR was registered based on the college principal's complaint accusing hijab-wearing students of defaming the college as it did not attract any sections of IPC. The principal can file a complaint against the students with other departments, he added. The case against the Facebook page, Mangaluru Muslims, which was posting messages to create unrest in society was handed over to CID. A preliminary investigation had revealed that individuals in foreign countries were posting the messages. A delegation from ABVP led by Prantha secretary Manikanta Kalasa submitted a memorandum

to the commissioner alleging selective targeting of ABVP students in campuses under the guise of the hijab issue. – **Deccan Herald, 9<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/clashes-in-college-results-in-filing-of-firs-1089374.html>

### **16.3.2022. Udupi.**

Karnataka girl-students wearing and fighting for their right to a hijab inside classrooms faced fresh horror as senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Vice President of Pre-University College Development Committee and BJP OBC Morcha General Secretary Yashpal Survarna accused the six students of belonging to terrorist organisations. Responding to the statements made by the girls during the press conference called by them after the hijab verdict, Survarna claimed that the girls were “anti-nationals” and “members of a terrorist organisation”. He went on to say that the six youths have brought disrepute to the judiciary by their statements and have no right to live in India. Survarna said, “Let these girls go to a country where they can practise their religion. Our next goal is a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens and building a *Hindu Rashtra*.” – **Karavali Ale, 17<sup>th</sup>**.

### **20.3.2022. Udupi.**

Irrked by Muslim traders closing their shops on March 17 protesting against the recent judgment of the High Court over the hijab issue, Hindu organisations have written to Kaup Municipal Council Chief Officer Venkatesh Navada that stalls and shops owned by Muslims be barred from participating in the auction organised for Mari puje, which will be held at three Marigudis in Kaup on March 22 and 23. The letter also holds him accountable for the consequences if he permits Muslims. There are three Marigudi temples, Hale, Hosa and Moorane. More than 100 shops are auctioned at Hosa Marigudi. According to Prakash Kukkehalli, Mangaluru divisional general secretary of Hindu Jagarana Vedike, the temple management committee in a meeting passed a resolution to allow only Hindus to participate in the auction of shops and stalls. “We were upset over Muslim traders’ reaction to the High Court verdict on the controversy over hijab. Accordingly, we submitted an appeal to the temple committee,” he said.

Ramesh Hegde, president of the temple management committee of Hosa Marigudi Temple in Kaup, said people who participate in the auction are not permitted to subcontract the shops and stalls they receive to any Muslim vendors.

Chief Officer Venkatesh Navada, on the other hand, stated that he had received the memorandum, but added that India is a secular country and that he cannot prevent Muslims from setting up stalls and shops.

Kaup Hosa Marigudi temple executive officer Prashanth Shetty said that Hindu organizations had appealed to the temple committee on allowing Hindus to carry out business during the Suggi Mari puje. As per the rules of the endowment department, the building and sites belonging to temples cannot be given away to non-Hindus. Hence, only Hindus will be allowed to set up stalls. A decision in this regard was also taken by the temple committee, he said. – **Deccan Herald, 20<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/don-t-auction-shops-stalls-to-non-hindus-at-kaup-marigudi-hindu-outfits-1092859.html>

### **20.3.2022. Udupi.**

A banner has been mounted in Shivapura in Hebri taluk on not allowing Muslims to conduct any business during Shankaralingeshwara Devara Jatra Mahotsava at Shivapura. The banner in the name of Annu Jathre Friends said, “Those who do not follow the law of the land, who kill cattle and bigots who posed a challenge to the sovereignty of the country will not be allowed to conduct business during Shankaralingeshwara Devara Jatra Mahotsava at Shivapura.” – **Deccan Herald, 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### **20.3.2022. Udupi.**

The temple committee of Mahalingeshwara Temple in Padubidri has also decided not to allow non-Hindus to carry out business during the temple rathotsava from March 21 and 22. Temple executive officer Prashanth Shetty said that members of VHP and Bajrang Dal in Kaup had submitted a memorandum to the committee in this regard. Accordingly, an emergency meeting was convened and the meeting decided not to allow non-Hindus to engage in business, he said. – **Deccan Herald, 20<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/don-t-auction-shops-stalls-to-non-hindus-at-kaup-marigudi-hindu-outfits-1092859.html>

### **20.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

A banner displayed near Bappanadu Goddess Durgaparameshwari temple and the Mulky bus stand has announced that Muslims cannot pitch their stalls at the annual fair of the temple. Now, hereditary and managing trustees of the temple have clarified that the temple has nothing to do with these banners. Hereditary trustee of the temple, Dugganna Sawanth of Mulky Seeme and managing trustee N S Manohar Shetty have given this clarification.

Speaking to media persons, Dugganna Sawanth reiterated that the banner was not set up by the temple. He said that no restrictions have been set against the Muslims conducting their trade in the annual festival of the temple. He clarified that some of the Muslim traders have removed the shops set up by them on their own to make sure that no unsavoury incidents happen at the annual fair.

Manohar Shetty stated that the temple has not placed any restriction on the people of different religions from conducting business at the annual fair of the temple. He pointed out that if any unwarranted incidents happen, it would be not possible to extend protection to everyone. Therefore he said, people willing to conduct business here are made aware of the situation and if they agree to the same, business licences are issued. –

**Daijiworld.com, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=939937>

**M**uslim traders have been prevented from carrying out any business at the Marigudi fair in Kaup that began on March 22 and also at the Mahalingeshwara temple in Padubidri. – **Deccan Herald, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **20.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

When banners barring Muslims from taking part in the annual fair of Bappanadu temple were erected near the said temple and the bus stand the managing committee held an emergency meeting in the morning and had removed the banners issued in the name of the temple committee. Thereafter, some miscreants exhibited new banner in the name of all the Hindu brethren, it is learnt. – **Daijiworld.com, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=939937>



The banner published in the name of all the Hindu brethren

The absence of Muslim traders was conspicuous as the daylight car festival ushered in the annual temple celebrations at Bappanadu Shri Durgaparameshwari Temple in Mulki on March 23. Just days before the start of the annual temple festival, banners sprang up declaring that Muslim traders were banned from setting up shops on the premises of the temple, which ironically had been propagating communal peace in society since time immemorial.

Unlike previous years, only Hindu traders were seen selling jasmine flowers to devotees who offer them to presiding deity Shri Durgaparameshwari as an expression of thanksgiving for fulfilling their wishes. Temple sources said as many as 85 Muslim traders had submitted applications to set up shops. As many as 53 among them had sought a refund of stall rent and one trader among them had placed the entire money in the temple's offering box.

Temple's hereditary trustee Dugganna Savanth said many Muslim traders on their own did not open shops in order to avoid unpleasant incidents. Temple's managing trustee N S Manohar Shetty clarified that the temple had not issued any order banning Muslim traders. As in past, the contract to set up stalls was awarded to two local organisations. The temple is in no way connected with the controversy, he added.

Former managing trustee of Shri Kshetra Bappanadu Harikrishna Punaroor said it was wrong to practice discrimination among street vendors in temple premises. He recollected that while serving as managing trustee, both Christians and Muslims used to visit the temple.

### Firecracker experts distraught

Families that have been involved in the tradition of making special firecrackers, that are lit prior to the start of religious festivities, car festivals, Harake Yakshaganas, among others, are a distraught lot. An elderly 'Gurnal Sahebru' recollected being flooded with requests to supply firecrackers for Hindu festivals during pre-Covid times. "Post-Covid, the requests dipped and this year we are yet to receive offers to provide firecrackers to organisers of temple festivals. There are nearly 20 such families who eke a living by making and selling such firecrackers," he said. – *Deccan Herald*, 24<sup>th</sup>.

### 20.3.2022. Mangaluru.

Banners have been mounted in front of Mangaladevi Temple to not allow non-Hindus from carrying out business during the temple fair. A banner read "Non-Hindus will not be permitted to carry out business during

the temple fair. No permission for those who are against the Constitution and those who kill cattle." The police have brought the issue to the notice of the tahsildar and the concerned departments. – **Deccan Herald, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **20.3.2022. Puttur.**

Banners have been mounted in front of Mahalingeshwara Temple to not allow non-Hindus from carrying out business during the temple fair. – **Deccan Herald, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **20.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

"One day or the other saffron flag might be our national flag. Because of the appeasement policy of Congress flag of India was broken. Who formed this tricolour? Which flag was there before this? Earlier Union Jack of British was there; prior to that the flag of our country contained green star and moon."

Addressing a massive foot march for the unity of Hindus to Karnika Koragajja's shrine in Kuthar on the outskirts of the city on Sunday, March 20, he said "If majority people vote for change of national flag in parliament and Rajya Sabha then the flag can be changed. If this continues in this manner, Hindu society will unite.

Reacting to the issue of introducing Bhagavad Gita in the school syllabus Bhat said, "Earlier Swarnavalli Shri had said that he will teach Bhagavad Gita in schools. Then all the progressive thinkers had created chaos. Let Bible and Quran be at your homes. Bhagavad Gita should be read in all schools and houses,"

"If one has to live properly in this world, he or she should read Bhagavad Gita. Our state government has taken a bold step like the Gujarat government of teaching Bhagavad Gita in schools. We all support this move," he added.

"Quran and Bible teach killing everyone. All these matters are picturized in The Kashmir Files movie. Has the Bible and Quran taught to kill and rape innocents? If it is there in those holy books then they should be changed now," commented Dr Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat.

"People speak about Manusmriti. If anyone finds fault in that it should be highlighted. We have such freedom. No need of going towards Hijab of olden times. Let us move towards Kitab. All should study unitedly," he proposed.

Reacting to opposition leader Siddaramaiah's comment on the movie, 'The Kashmir Files', Bhat said, "If a movie is made on the massacre at Gujarat, Siddaramaiah will run. No one can accept the rapes by Muslims in Gujarat. These people are more concerned about the saffron shawls worn by Hindu boys than the Hijab. We will fight for our survival. Till date Hindu never took any action. He has only reacted. If you stop the action, the reaction will stop automatically."

"Let Siddaramaiah go once and come. Go to the houses of the 56 people who were burnt to death. Then he will know what is sorrow. They do not have the guts to speak about Hijab. If they speak, they will lose their votes", Bhat challenged.

"I respect Siddaramaiah. But he should speak sensibly. He said that he will eat beef on the middle of the road while his wife and mother perform pooja to God from morning till night. Will he ask his wife and mother to get out from the house for that? Because of their good deeds, Siddaramaiah is still living. Siddaramaiah should know this. He should stop insulting Hinduism."

"Kashmir Files shows only a bit of the real history. Congress accepted when our religion was massacred in India. Today Hijab has arrived instead of Kitab. Though all facilities are given there is a feeling of separatism. This is an attempt to break the nation."

The foot march to Karnika Koragajja Shrine procession began from Kadri temple in the morning of March 20 led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). They condemned the derogatory comments passed against the Hindu daivas. Many Hindu leaders including RSS leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat participated in the foot march.

Speaking after reaching the Korgajja shrine at Kuthar, Prabhakar Bhat said, "This march is undertaken for two reasons. Derogatory comments have been passed against our daivas and also defiling of offertory boxes has been committed. So to show that the Hindu society is alive, we have undertaken this march. We resist when there is attack."

"If someone thinks that communal harmony and peace exhibited by us Hindus is our weakness, then it will not go on for long. They went to court, in the name of Hijab. But they are not accepting the verdict. They protested and openly criticised the court verdict. They do not value friendship also in front of religion. Their aim is to form a Muslim country. So we are taking out this march", said Bhat.

"There are some great humans in Muslim community like former president late APJ Abdul Kalam and judge Abdul Nazeer. But we have to look for the fourth person who is good in that society." – ***Daijiworld.com***, 20<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=938980>

### **25.3.2022. Udupi.**

Muslim traders have not put up stalls for the three-day Kollur Mookambika Temple annual fair, which commenced today. On March 22 Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal activists had submitted a memorandum to Kollur Gram Panchayat asking it not to permit non-Hindus from putting up their stalls in the panchayat area. K. Shivaram Krishna Bhat, president of the Kollur Gram Panchayat, told *The Hindu* that stalls for the fair come up in the area outside the temple premises under the limits of the panchayat. "There is no order from the State Government not to allow non-Hindus to put up their stalls outside the temple," he said. Mr. Bhat said that three Muslim traders, who regularly put up stalls during the temple fair, had come forward to put up their stalls this year also. "We had no objections to it. But we told them about the representation made by the VHP. Later, those three traders themselves decided against putting up their stalls with a view to prevent a likely law and order problem," he said. Mr. Bhat also said that with licensed traders operating outside the temple, only a few traders come forward to put up stalls during the annual temple fair and Navaratri Utsava. – ***The Hindu***, 26<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/three-muslim-traders-decide-not-to-put-up-stalls-in-kollur/article65260275.ece>

### **25.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

A woman had rented out some space near Vasuki Nagar at Ekkur to a Muslim scrap dealer. He had put up a temporary structure there and commenced his business. Some local women objected to the scrap shop in a residential area saying it was unauthorized. They also objected to other Muslim traders visiting the place in the evening and holding discussions in the street. The women brought this to the notice of Mounesh Chowta, leader of a local hindutva organization who immediately rushed to the site along with some activists of his organization. A heated discussion with the dealer and the owner of the plot ensued. Enraged by the refusal of both to vacate the plot, the activists threw out all the merchandise and tore down the temporary structure. No police complaint has been lodged so far. – ***Karavali Ale***, 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **25.3.2022. Uppinangady.**

A group of merchants from Uppinangady has sought action on those who have posted fake messages about their outlets in the social media. In a complaint, Yatish Shetty (29), owner of Suvya Ice Cream Parlour, said that some people have posted in social media messages that the ice cream parlour and a few other establishments will not give any articles to Muslims and they have sufficient business from Hindus. The traders said that they have not issued any such message and some people have misused the names of the firms. The traders met Assistant Commissioner of Police Gana P. Kumar and sought action. The complaint of the traders has been registered for an offence punishable under Section 505 (2) of the Indian Penal Code. – **The Hindu, 25<sup>th</sup>.**

### **26.3.2022. Udupi.**

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) divisional secretary Sharan Pumpwell today urged the temple administration committee of Kollur Mookambika temple to do away with ‘Salaam Mangalarathi’, a ritual offered in the temple remembering Tipu Sultan. VHP in its appeal to the temple committee said, “Tipu Sultan was a cruel, religiously blind, anti-Kannada and anti-Hindu religion person. He has massacred thousands of Hindus. Hundreds of temples are demolished by him. It is really regretful that a Mangalarathi is being offered to Devi Mookambika in the name of Salaam. The sanctity of the holy place will be maligned because of this. Salaam Mangalarathi is the sign of slavery. The Endowment department has to take action in this regard. Salaam name should be removed and Mangalarathi should be done in the name of God.” Appeal in this regard is sent to the Muzrai department minister Shashikala Jolle, president and executive officer of temple management committee. Dinesh Mendon Byndoor, district secretary VHP and Jagadeesha Kollur, Prakhanda president were present. – **Daijiworld.com, 26<sup>th</sup>.**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=941123>

### **30.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

‘India, the most secular, has offered religious freedom to all and also, has welcomed people of all faiths’ RSS leader and chairman of Vivekananda Vidyavardhaka Sangha of Puttur Kalladkka Prabhakar Bhat said today that those students who do not like to wear uniform prescribed by their respective educational institutions should leave the country. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the post-graduate students council of Mangalore University on Mangalagangothri campus, Mr. Bhat said that such students who do not like to wear uniform should go to a country where the dress code of their choice is allowed. Such students (who oppose wearing uniform) cannot stay in this country,” he said to a huge applause from post-graduate students in the audience. Mr. Bhat said that wearing uniform symbolised equality. He said that India is the most secular country and others need not teach it to follow secularism. The country offered religious freedom to all and it has welcomed people of all faiths, he added.

Meanwhile, Campus Front of India (CFI) and Students Federation of India (SFI) staged protests against the University for inviting Mr. Bhat to its campus to inaugurate the council. Both the organisations said that Mr. Bhat is known for making hate and provocative speeches and he should not have been invited. – **The Hindu, 31<sup>st</sup>.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/students-unwilling-to-wear-uniform-can-leave-the-country-kalladkka/article65276221.ece>

RSS leader Kalladkka Prabhakar Bhat said India has spread the message of equality to the world. “We do not have the culture of pressurising using ‘talwar’. There is a need to reduce the lure towards western countries,” said Bhat. Bhat, while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the students’ council at Mangalore University campus said though history claims Akbar as ‘Akbar the great,’ he was a rogue. “It was Shivaji Maharaj who saved the country. Babar had destroyed the birthplace of Rama. It was not Arabs who gave land for Muslims to

build mosques in India. It was Indians who gave land, which should not be forgotten,” he claimed. “We have been praising those who have done injustice to the country. Our heroes have been reduced to zero in the education system,” he said.

To a query on non-Muslims being prevented from carrying out business on temple premises, Bhat said, “The rule was passed by Congress in the past. The bandh call against the High Court verdict on the hijab was wrong. It was anti-Constitutional. In this background, Hindus have awakened and are holding the weapon of boycott.”

Mangalore University Vice Chancellor Prof P S Yadapadithaya said, “We have to lead a meaningful life and motivate others. The textbooks in India do not speak of the great personalities of the country. Honest efforts are being made to introduce them in the textbooks.”

A majority of the students were seen wearing saffron shawls while attending the students’ council inaugural programme. – **Deccan Herald, 31<sup>st</sup>.**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/heroes-were-reduced-to-zeros-in-country-kalladka-prabhakar-bhat-1096262.html>

**3.4.2022. Mangaluru.**

There are messages galore in the social media now asking Hindus not to buy anything from shops owned by Muslims and to start banning *halal* meat on the occasion of the Ugadi festival. A message in WhatsApp in the name of Bajrang Dal Mangaluru reads “Request Hindu owners of all hotels to remove ‘*halal*’ meat’ boards. Otherwise activists of Bajrang Dal will remove such boards.” – **Karavali Ale, 4<sup>th</sup>.**



**4.4.2022. Mulky.**

A banner has been put up near the main entrance to the Venkataramana temple at Mulky saying ‘In view of Brahmakalasha Utsava being observed at this temple from April 6 to 11, non-Hindus are strictly forbidden from doing any kind of business or making shandies here during that period.’ It is signed by the administrative committee of the temple. When contacted by this newspaper, Girish, the manager of the temple has confirmed that the decision was taken by the temple’s administrative committee. – **Vartha Bharati, 5<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **6.4.2022. Udupi.**

Yashpal Suvarna, vice-president of the Udupi Government College Administrative Committee has in a press statement called for punishment to the six girl students of the College who started the hijab row by stones as per Shariat. He called for an investigation of the said girls and their parents by NIA. Further he said "I have already told that these girls are being backed by Muslim terrorist organizations. The girls should be thrown out of the country and their families should be ostracized. Muslim organisations should be completely rooted out." – **Karavali Ale, 7<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **10.4.2022. Puttur.**

Now even autorickshaws have been made a part of the polarization campaign. Dr Prasad Bhandary, one of the Hindutva leaders of Puttur inaugurated such a campaign during the Puttur Mahalingeshwara temple festival. According to this Hindu drivers of autorickshaws are to compulsorily display saffron flags on their vehicles. The official spin for the campaign says it is for the twin purposes of helping poor Hindu drivers and for safety. It may be recalled that for the past three years Muslim vendors have been barred from setting up stalls during the annual temple festival. – **Karavali Ale, 11<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **22.4.2022. Udupi.**

In a statement released to the media today, Yashpal Suvarna, the National Secretary of Backward Classes Morcha which is affiliated to the BJP, has said that they are going to urge for the banning of Hijab in public places too in addition to schools and colleges. He claimed that a final decision in this regard would be taken even before France does it. – **Karavali Ale, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

#### **25.4.2022. Kundapur.**

Sri Ram Sene Chief Pramod Muthalik said today that awakened Hindus will buy gold only from shops owned by Hindus during Akshaya Tritiya. Speaking to presspersons at Kundapur in Udupi district, he said: "The revenue of Kerala-based jewellery shops are indirectly used to finance terror outfits." Hence, he claimed, Hindus will stay away from shops managed by people of a particular religion, he said.

"People have understood which is better for the cause of the country. Hindu organisations have awakened the society. People in the society have got a clear vision to take decisions," he said.

Mr. Muthalik claimed that following "awareness" created by Hindu organisations, people have decided shop for festivals at establishments owned by Hindus. "This is required for the security of the nation," he said.

Mr. Muthalik said that Hindus have been murdered in Kerala for ideological reasons and those murders have been financed by the jewellers of a particular religion. Hindu culture is demeaned in the advertisements put up by those jewellers. "If they want our money, but not our culture, we should fight back," he said, adding that Sri Ram Sene will launch its fight in Kerala for the cause of Hindus.

Referring to a controversy over a school in Bengaluru asking for an undertaking from parents to allow students to carry the Bible to its premises, he said that the particular school should be closed down. It is an illegal move, he said. – **The Hindu, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/awakened-hindus-will-buy-gold-only-from-shops-owned-by-hindus/article65355594.ece>

### **9.5.2022. Mangaluru.**

City did not respond much to the call given by Sri Rama Sene to play Bhajan during Azaan time in the morning from May 9. However, it is learnt that at one place devotional songs of Koragajja were played under the limits city police commissionerate. It has come to light that devotional songs of Tulunadu deity Koragajja were played at a temporary Aiyappa devotee camp near Shivaji statue at Moodushedde village under Kavoor police station limits. The songs were played for 40 minutes from 5.10 am. City police commissioner N Shashi Kumar said that no activity near the religious places of Muslims occurred in city limits. But if it is necessary, suitable action will be taken after investigation. – **Daijiworld.com, 10<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=956593>

### **16.5.2022. Belthangady.**

Speaking at a religious function at Gujjottu in Savya of Belthangady taluk, BJP MLA Harish Poonja reportedly said if he is allowed to contest in the next elections it is enough if Hindus vote for him, he doesn't want Byaris (local Muslims) votes. A video clip of this speech has gone viral on the social media. There is no reaction from Harish Poonja on the matter. – **Vartha Bharati, 17<sup>th</sup>**.

### **28.5.2022. Mangaluru.**

Fifteen students from University College, Mangaluru, were denied permission to attend classes or make use of library facilities wearing the hijab (a headscarf) on Saturday, May 28, following a decision taken in a meeting held by Mangaluru University officials. The meeting was held on Friday, a day after a protest by Hindu students, backed by the Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), asking the university to stop women students from wearing the hijab inside the campus. "We are implementing the government order and High Court order regarding the uniform. We are restricting the wearing of hijab in classrooms, libraries, laboratories," Vice-Chancellor Subramanya Yadapadithaya told TNM after the meeting.

The ABVP-led protest on Thursday came ten days after a decision taken by Mangaluru University to restrict the hijab in the colleges. "In a syndicate (university) meeting on May 16, we decided to strictly implement the High Court's decision and the government order pertaining to uniforms. A notice barring students from wearing the hijab was also put on the college notice board on May 17," the Subramanya Yadapadithaya said. Notably, while the High Court order had banned hijab in classrooms and labs (The Karnataka High Court enforced the uniform and restricted the wearing of hijabs in classrooms in March 2022), the University has added libraries to the venues where it is banned. Until this month, students were allowed to wear a headscarf of the same colour as the college uniform at University College, the vice chancellor said. "There are 44 Muslim students, and among them, 15 students are insisting that they want to wear the hijab. If there are inconveniences for the students, we will facilitate their transfer to other colleges," he added.

The decision taken by Mangaluru University applies to seven colleges under its administration. This includes the two constituent colleges: University College, Mangaluru, and Field Marshal K M Cariappa College in Madikeri; as well as five other autonomous colleges in Mangaluru and Belthangady. There are over 200 colleges in coastal Karnataka affiliated to Mangaluru University. However, this decision is not binding to all of those colleges.

The University College Student Union President, Vinyas V Acharya, who was backed by the ABVP, was forced to resign amid the furore in the college this week. The Student Union members, who elected Vinyas unanimously to the post of president, complained that he was not committed to implementing a ban on wearing the hijab in the campus. Vinyas is an ABVP member and a third year Bachelor of Science student in the college. "ABVP members were unhappy that I was not stricter in the way I approached the principal about implementation of the hijab rule," Vinyas told reporters on Friday.

Though he was in favour of implementing a hijab ban, Vinyas said that he advocated for dialogue to resolve the issue rather than taking to protesting outside the college. "I gave my opinion in the meeting that I am with all our students and I am not against anyone. Since I am a final year BSc student, I know how important our education is, I have been in this course for three-and-a-half years. If our education is affected because of a big protest here, it could cause problems when we are looking for jobs," Vinyas said. The ABVP has been conspicuously absent in saffron shawl protests by Hindu students in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada ever since the controversy over the wearing of the hijab broke out. Instead, other Hindutva organisations like the Hindu Jagarana Vedike and Bajrang Dal have organised students to protest outside their college campuses.

Data provided by the Education Department in Udupi had earlier showed that the number of Muslim girls attending Pre-University colleges in the district doubled between 2005 and 2021. Education experts now fear that the ban on wearing the hijab could reverse this trend. – **The Newsminute, 28<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/after-protests-led-abvp-mangaluru-college-restricts-hijab-campus-164457>

### **31.5.2022. Udupi.**

"Under the leadership of Bajarangdal and Durgavahini we will form Taskforce at the Village level against Love Jihad. Using the task force we can save Hindu girls who are lured into Love Jihad. We are ready to teach a lesson to those who are involved in Love Jihad activities and we know very well to use the Trishul against those involved in such Love Jihad activities", said BD state Convener Sunil K R. He was speaking after participating in the protest on May 31, demanding Justice in the Uppinkudru Shilpa Devadiga case. Addressing the protesters Sunil said, "There is a team actively working using innocent Hindu girls by luring and converting them to Islam. BD and VHP are continuously protesting against Love Jihad but still, our Hindu girls are exploited. The Hindu community should be aware of such cases". Sunil further said, "The police department has arrested Aziz who was involved in this case. We are demanding the department to arrest his wife Salma. The State Government should provide Rs 10 Lakh compensation to Shilpa's family."

VHP zonal Secretary Sharan Pumplwell said, "It is unfortunate that Shilpa Devadiga lost her life to Love Jihad. Even though this is a big incident, Kundapur town is calm and quiet. Shilpa Devadiga died due to torture by Muslim Youth and no one is ready to raise their voice. This type of silence is not good for our society. Our Hindu Community of Kundapur should come out on the streets and protest". Sharan Pumplwell further said, "For the last six years, Aziz was exploiting Shilpa and she went into depression. It is not a suicide but a preplanned murder. We are fighting against Love Jihad for the last 20 years and the fight will continue".

VHP district secretary Dinesh Mendon also spoke on the occasion. VHP leader Premananda Katkere, BD coordinator Bhujanga Kulal, VHP district Vice president Sridhar Bijoor, Matr Shakthi Pramuk Poornima Suresh and others were present. – **Mangalorean.com, 31<sup>st</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/we-will-form-taskforce-at-village-level-against-love-jihad-sunil-k-r/>

### **2.6.2022. Uppinangady.**

Row over Muslim girls wearing hijab in classrooms erupted again at the Government First Grade College at Uppimangady on June 2, as six girls have been suspended for defying the dress code. Sources said that some students turned up at the college sporting saffron shawls. They stated that the college was allowing some hijab-wearing girls into the classrooms and came out of the classes as a mark of protest. At the same time, another group of students came out protesting against the suspension of six girls for wearing hijab in classrooms and demanded that their suspension be revoked.

Sanjeeva Matandoor, chairman of the College Development Committee and also Puttur MLA, told *The Hindu* that the college had introduced a dress code long ago. A majority of the about 40 Muslim girls in the college remove the hijab in the ladies' room and later attend classes in accordance with the order of the High

0Court of Karnataka. As six girls were not ready to follow the dress code, the college suspended them three days ago, he said. The saffron shawl wearing students maintained that even after the suspension some had turned up for classes wearing the hijab and some others had started wearing the headscarf after seeing them. A Special Officer at the office of the Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Mangaluru Region, said the office had sought a report from the college on the developments, confirming that the college had suspended six girls.

When the controversy over the hijab was at its peak before the final verdict of the High Court, a row had hit the same college which had witnessed protests by students.

Meanwhile, in his complaint to the Uppinangady police, the journalist, Ajithkumar K, said a group of students forced him to delete the video recordings, which included the statement of the college principal, from his mobile phone after heckling and confining him in a college room. A group of about 25 students also questioned him for entering the college and sought to know whether he had obtained permission for it, he said. Acting on his complaint, the police registered a case against 25 students of the college who are yet to be identified. The Dakshina Kannada Union of Working Journalists has condemned the incident. – ***The Hindu*, 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**G**overnment First Grade College, Uppinangady, which suspended six girls four days ago for wearing hijab in classrooms, suspended one more girl on Friday, June 3 for defying the college dress code. The College Development Committee, headed by Sanjeeva Matandoor, MLA, Puttur, met on Friday to discuss the issue after the row erupted again on Thursday when students in two groups – one opposing hijab in classrooms and another supporting it – boycotted classes. Mr. Matandoor said after the meeting that the committee decided that the suspension will be revoked if they gave an undertaking that they will abide by the college dress code and follow it accordingly. As a girl violated the dress code on Friday, the college suspended her till further orders, the MLA said. Mr. Matandoor said that the committee reiterated that students should follow the dress code. If not, disciplinary action will be initiated against them. To a question, the MLA said that the college might dismiss the students if they continued to violate the dress code. While some students attended the classes, some stayed away on Friday, he said adding that none wore saffron shawls to the college on the day.

Meanwhile, Mangalore University Students' Coordination Committee on Friday gave two days deadline to address the issue over allowing hijab in the classrooms at the University College, Hampankatta, or else the committee said it will launch an agitation. The college, a constituent college of Mangalore University, has not been allowing students wearing hijab to attend the classes, library, and the canteen according to a decision taken by the syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, on May 16. Addressing presspersons in Mangaluru, president of the committee Riyaz said that if the college did not allow Muslim girls to wear hijab the committee will unite students from across the district and hold a massive rally in the city.

He was joined at the press meet by some hijab-wearing girls of the University College who urged the college to allow them to attend the classes. Gousiya, a final year degree student of the same college, said, "We have been wearing hijab inside classrooms even after the final verdict of Karnataka High Court verdict. It was on May 16, we received a message from the college principal which directed all the students to wear uniforms and attend classes without hijab." Arguing that the High Court order on hijab is not applicable to the colleges under the university, Ms. Gousiya reiterated that the syndicate of the university bowed to the pressures of the ABVP and took such a decision. "We have given our representations to the college principal, the Vice Chancellor, and the Deputy Commissioner, appealing to allow us to wear hijab inside the classrooms till the end of our academic year. Some of us will be completing our graduation in the next two to three months. The decision taken by the syndicate in the middle of the academic year will hamper our studies," she said. "A few of the ABVP backed students had even harassed us inside the college campus by videographing us, commenting and abusing from behind and unnecessarily arguing with us. Some had even showed saffron stole at us when we visited the college campus daily. We had even submitted a complaint to the college principal on the harassment. However, no action was taken against them so far," Ms. Gousiya said.

Earlier Vice-Chancellor P.S. Yadapadithaya said that the university will issue transfer certificates to such students if they wished to join such colleges allowing wearing hijab. – **The Hindu, 4<sup>th</sup>**.

## **UNIFORMS IN DEGREE COLLEGES: DEPARTMENT OF COLLEGIATE EDUCATION SAYS IT HAS NOT ISSUED ANY DIRECTIONS**

### **G. Mahantesh**

“No directions or circulars have been issued by us regarding uniforms for students of Government Degree Colleges that come under the jurisdiction of the Department” says a reply obtained from the Department of Collegiate Education under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**. S. Iqbal Ahmed of Bangarpet had filled an application under RTI Act on April 17, 2022 requesting information from the Department of Collegiate Education about uniforms being made compulsory for students of Degree Colleges. The above-mentioned reply was received from the Department on May 11, 2022. The *file.in* is in possession of a copy of the aforesaid reply.

The Karnataka Minister for Higher Education, Dr Ashwathnarayan who had earlier said that there was no dress code for students of Degree Colleges, later changed his statement through a series of tweets. “The Karnataka High Court has given a clear verdict regarding uniforms prescribed by the educational institutions and College Development Committees. The same order will also apply to government and private Pre-University and Degree Colleges. The minister’s changed stance caused much confusion in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts on Wednesday, June 8. 49 students of four colleges coming under the Mangaluru Police Commissionerate who came wearing hijabs were denied entry and had to go back home. – **Vartha Bharati, June 11**.

### **3.6.2022. Belthangady.**

An advertisement hoarding allegedly banning the entry of autorickshaws, taxis and other vehicles owned by non-Hindus has been reportedly put up on the road leading to Sauthadka Sri Mahaganapathi Temple. The billboard is in the name of some popular right-wing Hindu outfits, including Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal and Hindu Jagarana Vedike Kokkada. The notice on the billboard reads: “People from different faith have been engaged in love jihad and other miscreant acts near Hindu place of worship at Sauthadka. Hence, autorickshaws, taxis and other vehicles belonging to non-Hindus have been prevented from entering.” Dakshin Kannada Superintendent of Police Rishikesh Sonawane said the police were verifying the truth of the notice. “I came to know from the media. We will get it verified to know (more) on the hoarding,” he said. – **Deccan Herald, 4<sup>th</sup>**.

### **6.6.2022. Vittal.**

Speaking at the *Hindu Jagruti Sabha* organized by the Sangh Parivar in Vittal today, Radhakrishna Adyantaya, chief of Kalladka unit of the Hindu Jagran Vedike made insulting remarks against Islam. He said “It needs to be understood that Islam is not a religion. Neither is it a faith, nor a culture. Islam is not civilized, it is not humanitarian. Islam is cruelty; it is inhumane. Islam is rape. It is a gang of looters and lechers”. This speech has gone viral on the social media. – **Karavali Ale, 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**A** complaint has been registered against the Hindu leader Radhakrishna Adyantaya for allegedly speaking against Islam in a derogatory tone. In his complaint, Abdul Rahman, a resident of Vitlamudnur in Bantwal had alleged that during a religious programme held near the KSRTC bus stand at Vittal, Adyantaya had delivered a derogatory speech thus trying to disrupt peace and harmony in the society. The Vittal police have filed a case under IPC sections 505 (2) and 34. – **Deccan Herald, 11<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **15.6.2022. Haleyangadi.**

It has come to light that 19 girl students of the government degree college at Haleyangadi in Mangaluru taluk have not been attending classes because of *hijab* controversy. Before the Karnataka High Court order regarding *hijab*, girls with *hijab* were being allowed inside the classroom. But now the principal has asked for compulsory removal of *burqa* and *hijab*, the girls have complained. Allegedly instead of the local MLA, a BJP leader has been appointed as the President of the College Development Committee. – **Vartha Bharati, 16<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **26.6.2022. Haleyangadi.**

A controversy erupted after the contract to supply bananas to Ananthapadmanabha Temple in Kudupu, on the city's outskirts, was awarded to a Muslim trader. The temple authorities had given a contract to the lowest bidder to supply bananas on a regular basis needed for various sevas in the temple. On realising that the contract was entrusted to a Muslim trader, Hindu organisations raised objections. The temple had invited quotations from vendors to supply bananas for sevas for a period from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, last year. Of the four bidders, who had submitted quotations, a Muslim trader had quoted the lowest price. The news of awarding the contract to a Muslim trader had gone viral recently. Temple executive officer Jagadeesh promised to resolve the issue after June 30 when the contract ends. "I had taken charge recently. We will adhere to the government guidelines while awarding the contract after June 30," he said. – **Deccan Herald, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **5.7.2022. Puttur.**

A delegation of *Muslim Okkuta* of Puttur taluk has lodged a complaint with the Assistant Superintendent of Police for Puttur against members of *Hindu Jagran Vedike* alleging that they have made derogatory remarks against Islam. The complaint says that during a protest meet held by HJV on June 29 to condemn the murder of a tailor in Rajasthan, Shrikrishna Upadhyaya and Narasimha Maani have not only insulted Islam but also attempted to provoke communal riots and made threatening remarks against the Muslim community. The complainants have urged the ASP Puttur to take necessary action against the culprits. The delegation was led by Ashraf Kallega and consisted of lawyer Nuruddin Salmara, Ibrahim Sagar and others. – **Karavali Ale, 6<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **4.8.2022. Udupi.**

The Udupi police have registered a case against Laxmikanth (28) from Kalthodu village in Byndoor for praising Fazil's murderers as 'heroes' on his Facebook page. Udupi CEN Police Station Inspector Manjunath told DH that a case under Section 66 of the IT Act and 153A and 505 of IPC was filed against Laxmikanth. Section 53A of IPC was also used against him for promoting animosity between two religious groups. The police have launched a search as he has gone into hiding after uploading the post. Police sources said Laxmikanth spent the majority of his time in Bengaluru and commuted between the two cities. He previously worked in a hotel in Bengaluru before launching his own auto link business. – **Deccan Herald, 5<sup>th</sup>**.

### **14.8.2022. Mangaluru.**

An unauthorized banner featuring a photo of V.D.Savarkar that was found erected at a circle in Suratkal has been removed by the police. – *Karavali Ale*, 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **14.8.2022. Udupi.**

The BJP has added fuel to the already existing banner controversy with a party unit led by BJP leader Yashpal Suvarna garlanding the banner carrying the images of V D Savarkar and Subhash Chandra Bose and planting saffron flags on either side of the banner at Brahmagiri circle in Udupi. Suvarna alleged “PFI and SDPI have intensified the anti-national activities post-Independence Day celebrations in the state. “The factions are trying to disrupt peace in the society. Both are trying to establish their identity. They have already spoiled the harmony and are destroying public assets,” he alleged. He said “it makes no sense speaking about them. The Congress is trying to portray fake nationalism.” Suvarna said that the statue of Savarkar will be readied and installed shortly in the district which would be a befitting reply to all those who oppose him.

The police removed the saffron flags put up on either side of the banner as no permission was taken for the same. The banner was mounted on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations on Sunday August 14 at the circle after availing permission from the CMC. – *Deccan Herald*, 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **15.8.2022. Mangaluru.**

A photo of Veer Savarkar displayed during a cultural programme, held as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at in a school in Gurupura, on the outskirts of Mangaluru was objected to by SDPI-supported members of the *gram panchayat*. This led to a heated exchange of words. The police commissioner said PDO of Gurupura *gram panchayat* has submitted a complaint to the police, on the basis of which a case has been registered. – *Deccan Herald*, 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **18.8.2022. Mangaluru.**

Huge hoardings with the picture of Nathuram Godse were found installed at Suratkal. Baikampady, Kuloor and surrounding places to wish Krishna Ashtami celebrations to devotees by Akhil BhaRATA Hindu Mahasabha. Another banner by Hindu Jagran Vedike with Krishna Ashtami wishes and a picture of Savarkar was installed at Kumpala near Ullal. – *Deccan Herald*, 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **20.8.2022. Mangaluru.**

After a banner featuring Nathuram Godse and Hindu nationalist Veer Savarkar triggered a row, the district administration of Dakshina Kannada has instructed officials to remove all “controversial” banners displayed in the district. The directive was issued to officials of city local bodies and gram panchayats, to remove all such banners in the district with the help of the police.

Dakshina Kannada deputy commissioner KV Rajendra directed that suitable action be taken against people who display “unauthorised and controversial” hoardings and banners that promote hatred, by bringing it to the notice of the police department. He said that anyone who wants to display banners on authorised spots should mandatorily take permission from the officials concerned. Details of the printer of the banner should also be mentioned, he said. Rajendra also said loud speakers should be used in accordance with the directions of the High Court and Supreme Court.

The directive comes after controversial banners featuring Hindu nationalists were put up by the Hindu Mahasabha in Suratkal and neighbouring Udupi. In Udupi, the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha had put up a

contentious poster on Independence Day featuring Savarkar and Subhas Chandra Bose, with the words 'Jai Hindu Rashtra' written on it. The banner, which was displayed in a prominent place in Udupi's Brahmagiri Circle, kicked up a row after police granted protection to the banner. It was later taken down by the Hindu Mahasabha, who said that it was done to make way for Krishna Janmashtami celebrations.

Further, on Thursday, August 18, the Mangaluru City Corporation took down banners erected by the same organisation, which had photos of Nathuram Godse and Savarkar.

While the poster was taken down in Udupi, another one featuring Savarkar and Bose came up at the War Memorial in Ajjarkad in the town on Saturday, August 20. – **The Newsminute, 20<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/savarkar-banner-row-all-controversial-hoardings-be-removed-dakshina-kannada-167025>

### **31.8.2022. Udupi.**

Savarkar's photo was placed in Ganeshotsava pendal here in Kadiyali as per a call given by the Hindu outfits. Kadiyali Mahisha Mardhini temple Ganeshotsava pendal is one of the first Ganeshotsava pendals in Udupi. It is celebrating 56th Ganeshotsava this year. On the occasion of Ganeshotsava, Savarkar and Bal Gangadhar Tilak photos were placed on both sides of the pendal stage. People offered floral tributes to Savarkar picture. Books on life of Savarkar were also placed for sale in the pendal premise. Children were given books on the life of Savarakar as prizes. "The purpose of Ganeshotsava celebration is protection of Hinduism. Savarkar's mission was also to protect the same. This is the reason for celebrating Savarkar Ganeshotsava. This is an answer to the false propaganda against Savarkar," said the organizers. – **Daijiworld, 31<sup>st</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=995029>

### **10.10.2022. Puttur.**

Members of Hindu Janajagruti Samiti staged a protest at the Amar Jawan Circle in Puttur demanding a ban on the Waqf Board. Speaking on the occasion, Dinesh Jain, leader of the organization said "In India while the Railway Board and the Indian Army are placed in the first and second position respectively regarding the amount of land holdings, the third place is occupied by the Waqf Board. It is the government which is responsible for the Waqf Board, an entity that actually came into existence after independence, getting so much land." Later a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister through the *Tehsildar* demanding that people should consider this as a serious matter and the government should ban the Waqf Board. – **Karavali Ale, 11<sup>th</sup>**.

### **13.10.2022. Udupi.**

Police in Udupi district of Karnataka registered a case against television journalist Shrikant Shetty and Kajal Ben Shingala aka Kajal Hindustani, a hardline Hindutva crusader from Gujarat, over speeches made during the Durga Daud programme held in Udupi on October 2. The First Information Report (FIR), registered 10 days after the speeches were made, charged the duo with promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion.

A separate FIR was registered against 10-15 unknown persons over holding swords during the procession that took place in Udupi during the Durga Daud programme. The Durga Daud programme was organised on October 2 by the Hindu Jagarana Vedike in Udupi and it was attended by more than 10,000 people, with a few of them brandishing swords. One of the speakers, Shrikant Shetty, an Udupi based television journalist, told the gathering at the Durga Daud programme to worship weapons. "There should be a weapon in every Hindu household. In the next Ayudha pooja, Hindus should not worship cycles, mixers or grinders, but they should

worship weapons. Let us cultivate the mindset to use those weapons. This is the aim of the Hindu Jagarana Vedike," Shrikant had said.

Referring to the hijab controversy which began in a college in Udupi, Shrikant Shetty said that the Hindu Jagarana Vedike was instrumental in instigating Hindu boys to face off against their Muslim classmates over the issue. "The saffron turbans from Durga Daud are now being seen in colleges. It is because of Durga Daud that society is changing and is becoming aware. If there is another dispute, it won't just be saffron turbans; there could also be a thousand swords," Shrikant Shetty said.

The other speaker Kajal Ben Shingala aka Kajal Hindustani, a hardline Hindutva crusader from Gujarat, called for the boycott of Muslim businesses in Karnataka. "The money you give them, with the same money, they take away (elope with) your daughters. With the same money, they buy arms and gunpowder, run training camps, and prepare boys to become jihadis so they can behead people," Kajal said in the rally.

At one point, a chant broke out — "we will build a Hindu rashtra," with dignitaries including the local MLA Raghupathi Bhat enthusiastically endorsing the idea by waving his hands along to it. Former Congress leader Pramod Madhwaraj was also part of the rally that preceded the formal event on October 2.

On the same day, a rally by Sahabave, an organisation working for interfaith harmony was held in Udupi where speakers called for interfaith dialogue and promoted communal harmony. – **The Newsmminute, 13<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thenewsmminute.com/article/after-ten-days-cops-book-speakers-udupis-durga-daud-rally-where-swords-were-held-168851>

### **21.10.2022. Mangaluru.**

The Hindu Mahasabha and Hindu Janajagruti organized a campaign to celebrate halal-free Deepavali, in front of the Clock Tower today. 'The government should immediately stop the system of halal certification for products. Hindus should celebrate Halal-free Deepavali this year by boycotting all 'halal' certified products', they said. "Hindus should not purchase halal certified products during Deepavali and extend support to the protection of religion...Halal economy, a parallel economy in secular India is a very serious issue. It is a threat for the security of the country. When there is FSSAI and FDI to certify the quality of food products why are halal certificates being imposed on various products in the country? Various food giants and malls should segregate the products as halal and non-halal" they said. The members submitted a memorandum to Additional DC Krishnamurthy on the occasion. – **Deccan Herald, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **15.11.2022. Udupi.**

Hindu activists protested against the management of a private school at Shankaranarayana in Kundapura in Udupi district after students performed for the "Azaan" (Muslim prayer). Following the incident, the school authorities have tendered an apology. Mother Teresa Memorial School in Shankaranarayana had organised Kundapura taluk-level primary and high school sports meet at the Government PU College's playground on Tuesday, 15 November. School co-founder Shamitha told *DH* that students were singing a prayer song on the theme 'Sarva Dharma' (all religions) with a message on communal harmony. The prayer began with chanting of 'Om' and later with the bell of church. The song ended with 'Azaan' and 'Asathoma Sadgamaya'. "It was our mistake for having chosen Azaan. We had no intention to hurt the sentiments of people. Utmost care will be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the school," Shamitha assured. The 25-year-old school plays 'Gayathri Mantra' through the intercom system every morning. "Later, we play national anthem at 9.09 am before the start of classes. We have been emphasizing communal harmony at every step," she said. Former taluk panchayat member Umesh Shetty said, "I was at the stage when the students performed and we immediately objected to it. We did not stage a protest as there were large number of students at the venue and we did not want to raise the issue of religion in front of them." Hindu activists staged a protest in Shankaranarayana on Wednesday, 16 November condemning the school management for making Hindu students raise Azan. The activists also submitted a complaint to the Block Education Officer (BEO) to ensure

that such incidents do not occur again in the taluk. Udupi DDPI N K Shivaraj told *DH* that the school management had clarified that the objective behind the students performing Azaan was to highlight religious harmony. "It aimed at showcasing harmony and nothing else," he said. – ***Deccan Herald, 17<sup>th</sup>***.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/karnataka-hindu-activists-stage-protest-after-students-dance-to-azaan-1162969.html>

### **23.11.2022. Puttur.**

A flex board urging people not to fall prey to 'love jihad' was put up near the Forest Department at the KSRTC bus stand in Puttur on Wednesday, November 23. The flex by Dr M.K.Prasad who is involved in Hindutva organisations reads, "Hindu girl Shraddha was murdered by chopping her body into 35 pieces. Love Jihad is the reason behind it. None should fall prey to it." – ***Deccan Herald, 25<sup>th</sup>***.

### **23.11.2022. Bantwal.**

A delegation of members of the Allipade unit of Catholic Sabha Mangaluru Pradesh have submitted a memorandum to the Bantwal *taluk* Tehsildar expressing their unhappiness about certain anti-Christian messages going viral on the social media. These messages complain about statues of Jesus Christ being put up on roadside and urge for their removal. The memorandum points out the fact that while there are several platforms and donation boxes of various faiths and organisations on either side of the road at Manihalla, Sarapadi and Ajilamogaru only the statues of Jesus Christ are being targeted. The delegation included the president of the unit Stanly Menezes, its secretary Philomena Fernandes, Navin Moras, Lovina Moras, Pravin Pinto, Neville Pinto, Avinash Pinto and Mary Lasrado among others. – ***Karavali Ale, 26<sup>th</sup>***.

### **9.12.2022. Kundapur.**

Muslim traders have been banned from setting up stalls at the annual fairs of Koteshwara Kotilingeshwara Temple at Kundapur and the Durgaparameshwari Temple at Uppunda. This has been confirmed by Surendra Koteshwara, head of the VHP Kundapur division. – ***Karavali Ale, 9<sup>th</sup>***.

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## **Allegedly by Muslim Fundamentalists**

### **6.1.2022. Vittal.**

A groom and his friends who arrived at the house of a bride mimicking the Koragajja ritual have landed themselves in trouble. Vittal police filed a complaint against the groom, Umarulla Bashith, from Uppala in Kerala, for reportedly projecting Koragajja in poor light and hurting the sentiments of Hindus in Salethur in Bantwal taluk. Chethan from Vitlapadnoor in his complaint alleged that Bashith had arrived at the bride's house wearing the costume of Koragajja. The indecent dance by his friends had hurt the sentiments of Hindus, he

said. By uploading the video on social media, an attempt was made to disrupt peace in the society, he charged in his complaint. Chethan urged the police to take action against the families of the bride, groom and his friends. The police, based on the complaint, registered a case under section 153 A (offence of promoting disharmony, enmity or feelings of hatred between different) and 295 (intent to insult the religion) of IPC. Vishwa Hindu Parishad demanded strict action for disrespecting Hindu god Koragajja. VHP district secretary Shivanand Mendon condemned the incident and urged police to initiate stringent action against all those who were part of the incident. Members of VHP and Bajrang Dal also had attempted to gherao the house of the bride in Salethur. As they shouted slogans near the house, Vittal police took them into custody. Bantwal MLA Rajesh Naik also condemned the incident and urged the police to take strict action against wrongdoers. – **Deccan Herald, 8<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/youth-in-trouble-as-devotees-find-mimicking-of-koragajja-in-poor-taste-in-dakshina-kannada-1...>

The police have arrested the two accused, Ahmmad Muithabu (28) from Mangalpadu in Kumble and Moideen Munish (19) from Galiadka Bayarupadavu. They have been remanded in judicial custody. – **Deccan Herald, February 1.**

### **10.2.2022. Puttur.**

A delegation of Bharatiya Jain Milan of Puttur met the Additional Superintendent of Police Kumarchandra at the Puttur police station and submitted a memorandum urging legal action against Ayub Khan, national president of New Congress Party of Mysore for his obscene remarks about Bhagwan Bahubali who is revered by the Jains. – **Vartha Bharati, 11<sup>th</sup>**.

### **21.2.2022. Mangaluru.**

The CEN police have filed a case against the Mangalore Muslims Facebook page for posting inciting comments on the murder of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha in Shivamogga, on February 21. According to the complaint filed by the Social Media Cell of Police Commissioner's office, on February 21, the head constable on duty noticed inciting comments on the murder of 23-year-old Bajrang Dal activist Harsha in Shivamogga on the 'Mangalore Muslims' Facebook page and personal blog on social media. It was mentioned that one who was murdered in Shivamogga on February 20 was a stray dog who had insulted the Prophet in 2015. Those who insult the Prophet will not prosper. The Mangalore Muslims have not forgotten Ajith Hanumakkanavar who had also insulted the Prophet. The Mangalore Muslims have provided information to the police department and the government about the murder of BD activist Harsha in Shivamogga.

The 'Mangalore Muslims' Facebook page is involved in creating enmity between Hindus and Muslims and their organizations. The 'Mangalore Muslims' page is trying to create communal disturbance in the society by posting objectionable and inciting posts targeting Hindus. The comments from the 'Mangalore Muslims' page, have been shared by Mohammed Shafiq on other groups leading to further mistrust between the communities. In this connection, an FIR has been registered under the INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT 2008 section 66(C), 66(D) and IPC 1860 U/s-153A,505(1)(B),505(1) (C) and 507. – **Mangalorean.com, 21<sup>st</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/fir-filed-against-mangalore-muslims-fb-page-for-posting-inciting-comments/>

### **25.2.2022. Mangaluru.**

The city police on Friday booked a 17-year-old boy on charges of posting messages, images, and videos defaming gods on an Instagram page. Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar told presspersons that the

seven-member social media monitoring cell, headed by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), noticed defamatory posts on the Instagram page 'Troll\_King\_193'. The police traced the boy hailing from Konaje, who worked in the APMC Yard in Bengaluru. "The boy has admitted to posting more than 20 defamatory posts, which have potential to create communal unrest," Mr. Kumar said, adding that the police were trying to find out if there are others associated with the boy in creating and posting such posts. Investigation, Mr. Kumar said, revealed about the boy using IT tools to create defamatory videos and photographs. He had been doing this for the last five months. The boy had discontinued studies after Class X, Mr. Kumar said. A case had been registered against the boy at the Cyber Economic and Narcotic Crime police station. He was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board, Mr. Kumar said. The social media monitoring cell had been monitoring social media activity of over 100 organisations and 1,064 individuals. "We are closely studying posts that are derogatory and are likely to disturb peace and order," Mr. Kumar said, adding that the police were not after genuine conversation on the social media platforms. – **The Hindu, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/minor-booked-for-posting-derogatory-content-online/article65086363.ece>

### **3.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

Prajwal, a 19-year-old youth from Saligram received a threat to his life by a group of men at around midnight tonight for objecting to a humiliating WhatsApp status against activists of Sangh Pariwar. In his complaint to the Kota police station, Prajwal said that Riyan, the brother of his friend, is guilty of making derogatory remarks about Sangh Pariwar on his WhatsApp status two weeks ago. When Prajwal condemned the post he was threatened to be killed with a sword by Riyan and his friends. A case has been registered against Riyan at the Kota police station. – **Vartha Bharati, 6<sup>th</sup>**.

### **5.4.2022. Udupi.**

Miscreants have posted a message on the social media calling on Muslims to boycott 'Jayalaxmi Silks' which is a Hindu-owned apparels shop in Udyavara. It has gone viral in WhatsApp groups. According to Ravindra, the owner of the shop, this is a repetition of a two-year old fake video. Akbar Ahmed, the person who had posted this video two years ago had later admitted that it was a fake and had apologized for his act. Ravindra has now registered a complaint with the Udupi police against the new post. – **Karavali Ale, 6<sup>th</sup>**.

### **20.4.2022. Mangaluru.**

The police have arrested Mohammed Azmal, 20, of Belthangady in connection with a case wherein a death threat was issued through Instagram to Sai Sandesh, a degree student who was confronted in March this year by Muslim degree students of Dayananda Pai Satish Pai Government Degree College after they were barred from writing internal examination as they came in hijab.

Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar told reporters that a relative of Sai Sandeesh filed a complaint seeking action against those who posted message on Instagram account, "mari\_gudi\_5", that threatened the life of Sai Sandesh. The complainant has also sought action in a matter wherein Sai Sandesh received life threats through WhatsApp calls.

The Cyber Economics and Narcotic Crime Police and social media monitoring cell of the city police, Mr. Kumar said, jointly analysed the message and found that "mari\_gudi\_5" was created by Azmal in the name of his uncle. Apart from issuing a threat to Sai Sandesh, Azmal posted images derogating Shivaji and other

popular historical personalities on this account. He is suspected to have opened fake WhatsApp accounts and is said to be active in WhatsApp groups that are posting messages causing communal hatred.

To divert the attention of law enforcement authorities, Azmal was using a foreign SIM for this purpose. Azmal, who has done a computer course after completing his PU, has been active on the social media for the past 18 months. Azmal is suspected to have opened a few fake Twitter accounts too, Mr. Kumar said.

Afzal has been booked under the provisions of Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act for promoting enmity among communities, impersonation and identity theft, the police said. – **The Hindu, 21<sup>st</sup>**.

#### **18.6.2022. Udupi.**

One person from Bajpe was arrested by Kaup police in relation to the death threat case to Yashpal Suvarna through an Instagram page by the name Maarigudi\_06. The arrested is identified as Mohammed Shafi. He has been sent to 14 days judicial custody. Shafi had posted a death threat message against Yashpal Suvarna and Pramodh Muthalik. The culprit was arrested by Kaup police tracking the IP address. Shafi was working as a lorry supervisor in a logistics company at Surathkal. The police are on search for another person named Mohammed Asif who had helped Shafi in the crime. – **Daijiworld.com, 18<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=970227>

#### **11.9.2022. Kadaba.**

A Whatsapp status by the SDPI to the effect that 'Visiting bars and temples gives only momentary comfort' leader Martis has been objected to by several leaders of Hindutva organization. Stating that the message has hurt the feelings of Hindus, Vasudeva Kollesagu, Santosh Kumar Kodibail, Pramod Rai, Girish and others lodged a complaint with the police. Following this Martis has deleted the status and tendered an apology. – **Karavali Ale, 12<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **4.10.2022. Bantwal.**

Objectionable writings by miscreants were found on a road at Snehagiri in Pилanthabettu village of Bantwal Taluk on Tuesday, October 10. It read "*Chaddigale* (slang used for RSS) beware.... PFI will return back." On noticing the writings local resident Lakshminarayana Hegde has filled a complaint at Poonjalakatte Police Station. In his complaint he said that some miscreants have written objectionable writings on the road using white spray paint. The writings are aimed at disrupting peace and harmony and hence action should be initiated against the anti-social elements responsible for such wrtings, he added. A case under IPC sections 153, 427 and 506 have been registetred. – **Deccan Herald, 6<sup>th</sup>**.

## Unidentified social media accounts

### 31.7.2022. Dakshina Kannada District.

The police today registered **five cases** under the provisions of Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code against those who have posted communally sensitive posts on social media sites. The action was taken following a plea by participants in a district level peace committee meeting on July 30, urging the police to take action on social media posts that create communal trouble. All five cases have been registered at the Cyber Economic and Narcotic Crime Police Station following complaints by head constable M. Raja from the Social Media Monitoring Cell of the city police. These complaints have been registered for offences punishable under Section 66 (C) of Information Technology Act and Sections 153 (A) and 505 (2) of Indian Penal Code.

One complaint was filed on a post by a fake social media account holder on July 30, in which the Intelligence Department is quoted as cautioning against an impending big communal trouble in the coastal district.

Another complaint is about a post on July 30 issuing a life threat to the former Mangaluru City North MLA Mohiuddin Bawa.

The third complaint is about a post also made on July 30 in another fake social media account where it is said that for every murder of those belonging to one community, there will be 10 such murders of people from another community.

Two complaints have been filed against two posts about another murder on communal lines, which were made a day after the murder of Mohammed Fazil on July 28. – **The Hindu, August 1.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/police-register-five-cases-against-communally-sensitive-posts/article65707331.ece>

### 31.7.2022 & 1.8.2022. Dakshina Kannada District.

In continuation of action against communally sensitive social media posts, the city police registered **13 more cases** on July 31 and August 1. While 12 cases have been registered at the Cyber Crime Economic and Narcotic Crime police station, one case has been registered at the Urwa police station. These cases have been registered following complaints by personnel from city police's social media monitoring cell, which has been monitoring communally sensitive and offensive posts on WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other social media sites.

Of the 12 cases includes one registered about a WhatsApp message on July 31 in the name of Bajarang Dal stating about attack on two Jihadis. Another case was registered on the post on July 30 threatening to behead a religious leader, who had recently made statement asking youth to murder people from another community in retaliation to murder of Praveen Nettaru.

A case is also registered on the post stating that Jihadis will fear to touch if two Jihadis are murdered for every murder of a Hindu. A case had been registered on the post on July 29 stating that there will be another murder within 48 hours (of murder of Mohammed Fazil on July 28). A person who has posted about murdering five persons for murder of Praveen Nettaru has also been booked. Another case was booked for post asking Hindus to awaken and take revenge for Praveen's murder. Police have also registered a case on the post threatening of life of persons speaking to Hindu girls and those involved in cattle transport.

The Urwa police registered a case on the post stating about Muslims from Chokkabettu in Surathkal have thrown stones on policemen on duty. – **The Hindu, August 2.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/13-more-cases-booked-in-connection-with-communally-sensitive-social-media-posts/article65712499.ece>

## HATE SPEECH: 34 CASES WITHDRAWN

### Rajesh Rai Chatla

The Karnataka state government has decided to withdraw a total of 34 cases of hate speech filed against Jagdish Karanth, the convener of Hindu Jagran Vedike and leaders of some other Hindutva organizations. Jagdish Karanth is alleged to have delivered hate speeches during the *Hindu Samajotsava*, *Hindu Janajagruti Samavesha* and the protest meet against 'love jihad'. The decision to withdraw the cases was taken in a cabinet meeting overriding the opinions of DG (IGP), Department of Law and the Department of Prosecution and Government Litigations. They were of the opinion that these cases which have been registered at various police stations and pending trial in various courts of law should not be withdrawn.

*Prajavani* is in possession of a 47-page file prepared by the Department of Internal Administration which was tabled during the said cabinet meeting. Some of the ministers and legislators present during the meeting had made requests for withdrawal of the cases. They are Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, ministers J.C.Madhuswamy and S.Angara, legislators Arun Kumar (Ranebennur), K.G.Bopiah (Virajpet), Doddanagowda G.Patil (Hungund), Veeranna Charanthimath (Bagalkot), S.R.Vishwanath (Yelahanka), B.S.Patil (Devarahipparagi), Subhash R.Guttedar (Aland), Rajkumar Patil Telkur (Sedam), S.A.Ravindranath (Davangere North), K.Madal Virupaksha (Channagiri), Anand Mamani (Savadatti), Shrimant Patil (Kagawad), Arvind Bellada (Hubli-Dharwad West), S.K.Bellubbi (former legislator), N.Ravikumar (MLC).

A meeting of the cabinet sub-committee held on August 2, 2022 had examined 27 files containing details of 46 cases put up for withdrawal. Some of the cases pertained to farmers. The Police Department and Departments of Prosecution and Law had opined that none of the cases was 'fit for withdrawal'. Despite this the sub-committee recommended to the cabinet committee that 34 cases could be withdrawn under Cr PC 321 (only the prosecutor has the right to withdraw cases under trial).

The following are the main cases that have been withdrawn:

- ❖ Cases registered against persons who attacked on-duty policemen at Halageri Police Station in Haveri in 2015 in an incident relating to two communities. Withdrawal request made by Home Minister Araga Jnanendra.
- ❖ Cases registered at Ilavala Police Station in Mysuru in 2017 against activists of *BJP Yuva Morcha* for having carried out a '*Mangaluru Chalo*' bike rally defying prohibitory orders. **Withdrawal request made by minister J.C.Madhuswamy.**
- ❖ Cases registered at Mudhola Police Station in 2017 against Jagdish Karanth and a local activist for making provocative speeches during '*Mudhola Chalo*' programme protesting the deportation of Shivananada Mallappa Badigera and eight others of *Hindu Jagran Vedike*. **Withdrawal request made by minister S.Angara.**
- ❖ Cases registered at Sullia Police Station in 2013 against D.V.Liladhar, Subrahmanya Upadhyaya, K.P.Jagdish and Jagdish Karanth of *Hindu Jagran Vedike* for making hate speeches during '*Hindu Samajotsava*' programme at Kallugundi in Dakshina Kannada district. **Withdrawal request made by minister S.Angara.**
- ❖ Cases registered against Jagdish Karanth for vilifying the police during the protest meet at Doddaballapur in 2011 against '*love jihad*'. **Withdrawal request made by minister S.Angara.**

- ❖ Cases registered against Jagdish Karanth for making hateful and hostile speech during the *Hindu Janajagruti Samavesha* at Shira in 2009. **Wthdrawal request made by minister S.Angara. – Prajavani, September 21.**

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## **Attacks on /Desecration of Places of Worship**

### **Allegedly by *Hindutvavadis***

#### **5.2.2022. Mangaluru.**

A person has demolished the St Antony Holy Cross Prayer Center located at Panjimogaru Urundadi near Kulur. This prayer Center was constructed 40 years ago and has a proper door number issued by the Mangaluru City Corporation. Besides, an *anganwadi* has been allowed to function at the place. In his complaint to the Kavur police Prakash Lobo, the president of the St Antony Holy Cross Building Committee has also stated that earlier when the local Satya Koddabdu Committee had tried to encroach into the Prayer Center, the latter had approached the Deputy Commissioner and the Court and obtained a stay order. Despite this a person had trespassed into their property with a JCB and cut the trees and demolished the building. – ***Karavali Ale, 7<sup>th</sup>.***

#### **1.5.2022. Kadaba.**

A case has been filed in the town police station about miscreants trespassing into the property of the Assembly of God Church in Enmaje near Peradka in the Renjiladi village and vandalizing the cross. Fr Jose Verghese bin Varghese Immanuel of the said church is the complainant. In his complaint Fr Jose says, “On the night of May 1, miscreants broke open the door of the church and entered the premises illegally. They destroyed the cross on the top of the church building intentionally and installed a saffron flag there. In addition, they kept the photo of Lord Hanuman inside the church. The miscreants also stole the electric meter and broke open the Godrej in which the records pertaining to the church were kept. The hooligans also stole the electrical bulbs and irrigation pump and pipes worth Rs 14,000. On the night of May 4, the miscreants cut the service wires from the electric pole that was installed on the church building and took the electrical meter box. The church is paying tax to the municipality for the past 30 years. So kindly take suitable action against the miscreants who entered the church illegally and damaged its property.” The case was registered in Kadaba police station on May 5.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=955346>

In the case related to hoisting saffron flag on the belfry of Renjilady church, now, a local resident has filed a complaint with the tahsildar of building a structure illegally on the land that is owned by him. Enkaje Shobharaj, who resides close to the prayer center has objected the trespassing of his land by strangers and preparing for religious rituals. ACP Gana P Kumar visited the disputed land and inspected the spot. She met authority of prayer center and took details of the incidents. Kadaba investigative sub inspector Srikant Rathod, CID personnel, Kadaba police personnel and Noojibalthila village accountant Santhosh were present. Later, Uppinangady CI Umesh Uppalike visited the spot. Meanwhile, it is said, according to the revenue department, there are no records or RTC for the land on which the church is built. – **Daijiworld.com**, 7<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=955668>

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal workers submitted an appeal to the station officer of Kadaba police station urging the demolition of the alleged illegal structure of Peradka church at Renjiladi village. In their appeal given to ASI Chandrashekhar, the Hindu leaders say that the building which was built on the land belonging to a poor farmer Shobharaj, a resident of Peradka Enkaje some years ago is completely dilapidated. This building is occupied by people belonging to another faith and they are conducting prayers, other activities and trying to convert that into a religious conversion centre. The complaint also says that the other faith group is trying to build a new building without any record or permission from local administration. There is a possibility of disturbance in society in future due to this. So permission should not be given to build any building on the said land and also the present structure needs to be demolished, they have urged. Shobharaj should be given police protection as church leaders and other political leaders threatened to kill him, they have alleged.

Krishna Shetty Kadaba, convener of BJP prakoshth district, alleged that “The building which is being projected as a church is just an accommodation. However, it is being projected as an attack on the church in order to create unrest in the district.....No one has been residing in the said building for the past eight years. Earlier, people from another faith had obtained the door number for the structure illegally. Based on this, attempts are being made to hold unauthorised religious activity. They have renewed the occupancy of the building a month ago by paying the tax arrears of eight years all at once. Some organizations are supporting this group from another faith and have threatened poor farmer Shobha Raj with life. This is condemnable.” – **Daijiworld.com**, 8<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=956033>

## **Allegedly by Muslim Fundamentalists**

### **20.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

Briefing the media persons Mangaluru Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar said that the police have succeeded in arresting a youth who had desecrated Kandavarapadavu Sri Kordabba Daivasthana near Kaikamba in the outskirts of Mangaluru at night on 20 March 2022. The arrested youth is 27-year-old Sahul Hameed hailing from Gurpur Kaikamba. After arresting him, the police personnel of Bajpe station produced him before the court on March 21.

Police Commissioner further said, “Through the footage of CCTV cameras it was noticed that Sahul Hameed entered the Daivasthana at 10:45 pm on Sunday, 20 March. CCTV footage shows him blowing off the burning lamps lit in front of the Daivas and also the ones near Rahu Guliga Daivas. He then sits for a while on the temple compound wall and then returns back to the Daivasthana. He once again lights the lamps and then is seen walking on the perambulatory path from the wrong side. The scene also shows that the place was blood-smearred at that time. For nearly 45 minutes, Hameed was loitering inside the Daivasthana”.

“The incident came to light to the nearby villagers on Monday morning, who expressed anger and complained to the police. In response, Bajpe police inspector, Sandesh P G along with other staff visited the spot, did some investigations and also watched the CCTV footage, after which Hameed was arrested. On the basis of a complaint made by the Daivasthana managing committee, Hameed was booked. A blood-stained matchbox and Rs 200 currency note were found from the Daivasthana. Looks like Sahul was injured after his hand came in contact with a broken glass splinter at Gurpur, and since he visited the Daivasthana directly in that condition, it is assumed that blood droplets were found because of his injury,” added the Police Commissioner. – **Mangalorean.com, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

## **Unidentified**

### **15.3.2022. Mangaluru.**

Miscreants have desecrated a graveyard situated next to the Aladka Badria Juma mosque at Harekala in Konaje. The incident seems to have happened in the early hours today. Beer bottles and pieces of flesh were found strewn all over the area. It is alleged that even some graves were damaged. The Konaje police visited the site and carried out investigations. – **Karavali Ale, 16<sup>th</sup>**.

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## **Other incidents of communalism**

### **Allegedly by Hindutvavadis**

#### **19.1.2022. Mangaluru.**

Tulunada Javaner Tanda of Ullal has opposed the construction of Beary (local Muslims) Bhavana at Thokkottu on the outskirts of Mangaluru. The labourers and the machine that had arrived to sink a well were sent back. The foundation stone for the Beary Bhavana was laid in the presence of the president of the Karnataka Beary Sahithya Academy on December 2. The Beary Bhavana to be constructed at a cost of Rs 6 crore was opposed by Hindu Mahasabha and Ullal Veera Rani Abbakka Utsav Samiti in the past. Tulunada Javaner Tanda of

Ullal president Ashwin Kolya and Veera Rani Abbakka Utsav Samiti president Dinakar Ullal and others were present. Bhagwandas, a former member of Ullal CMC said, "There is vacant space only near Thkkottu bus stand. The construction of the Bhavana will inconvenience the public. We had appealed to identify space for the parking of taxis. However the authorities failed to allot a piece of land. What is the conspiracy behind the Beary Bhavana at Thokkottu? It is not right to construct the Bhavana without taking the locals into confidence." – **Deccan Herald, 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### **19.1.2022. Mangaluru.**

BJP supporters, members of Sangh Parivar and Abbakka Utsava Samiti, led by Ullal councilor Dinakar Ullal, staged a protest on Saturday against the construction of Beary Bhavana, the administrative office of Beary Sahitya Academy, in Thokkottu Junction. The foundation laying ceremony for Beary Bhavana was scheduled for Saturday. Members of Ullal Veerarani Abbakka Utsava Samiti staged a protest alleging an inordinate delay in the construction of Abbakka Bhavana.

Deputy Leader of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) and MLA U T Khader who arrived at the spot was asked not to attend the foundation laying ceremony by protestors. But, Khader said he would attend it as it was a government programme. This led to a heated exchange of words between the MLA and protesters. Khader said it is ironic that BJP workers were staging protests against their own government. District In-charge Minister V Sunil Kumar who was to lay the foundation for Beary Bhavana ended up skipping the event. – **Deccan Herald, 26<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/protest-against-proposed-beary-bhavana-1085453.html>

### **21.2.2022. Udupi.**

It is learnt that miscreants numbering around 100-150 allegedly pelted stones tonight at 'Bismillah Hotel' at Malpe belonging to Hyder Ali, father of Shifa, one of the college girls who approached the high court for not being allowed to wear Hijab in her classroom. The mob also assaulted Hyder's son Saif (20). As a result Saif is said to have been admitted to a hospital in Udupi. The situation in the area is tense. Policemen from the Malpe station have arrived at the site of the incident. – **Vartha Bharati, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **3.3.2022. Bantwal.**

As per the Bantwal police, they have taken a 60-year-old man into custody on charges of trespass and criminal intimidation. The man had illegally entered a mosque and reportedly threatened to kill the spiritual leader at the mosque. According to police probing the matter, the accused is Babu Poojary, a daily wager. Poojary reportedly arrived on a two-wheeler at Mohiuddeen Juma Masjid, Mithabail, B Mooda village, entered the masjid and asked for the religious leader. Complainant Abdul Salam, who noticed Poojary entering the mosque, questioned the accused about his presence. In reply, the accused said he had come to kill the spiritual leader and they could do nothing about it. A knife was also found in the two-wheeler that the accused had arrived in. The Bantwal town police were informed, and they rushed to the spot and picked up the accused. A case has been registered under IPC Sections 448 (house-trespass) and 506 (criminal intimidation) and is under investigation. – **Mangalorean.com, 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/cops-arrest-man-for-entering-mosque-threatening-the-spiritual-leader/>

### **22.4.2022. Mangaluru.**

With Hindu right-wing organisations claiming a temple-like structure existed in the place of a mosque that is being renovated near Ganjimutt here, the Dakshina Kannada district administration has ordered *status quo* till

an inquiry was conducted. It has also urged people not to jump into conclusion and help maintain law and order. In a statement, Vishwa Hindu Parishad Mangaluru divisional secretary Sharan Pumpwell said following demolition of a part of Assiyid Abdullahil Madani Juma Masjid, people have found traces of a temple. It appeared that an old temple had been demolished to build the masjid. The Ganjimutt Gram Panchayat should forthwith cancel permission for renovation, he demanded urging suitable action from the district administration.

Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra said the district administration is looking into the old land records and entries regarding ownership. "We will take report both from Endowment Department and the Waqf Board. We will check the veracity of the claims and take appropriate decision soon. Till then I have instructed to maintain *status quo* and request people not to jump to conclusions," Dr. Rajendra said and asked people to maintain peace. Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar said adequate bandobust arrangements have been made at the spot. – ***The Hindu, 23<sup>rd</sup>***.

**T**he Third Additional Civil Judge and JMFC court April 22 issued a temporary stay order preventing the demolition or damaging of the temple-like structure discovered during the demolition of Assayed Abdullahil Madani Juma Masjid at Thenka Ulipady village in Ganjimutt Gram Panchayat limits on the same day. Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Dr Rajendra K V had ordered the maintaining of a status quo after the temple-like structure had emerged from the debris on April 21.

One Dhananjaya, a resident of Ganjimutt, moved a petition in court seeking an injunction to the planned demolition of the mosque on survey number (1/10). The judge also issued directions preventing mosque committee members and their supporters from entering the disputed site within Ganjimutt GP limits. Vishwa Hindu Parishad divisional secretary Sharan Pumpwell and district president Gopal Kutthar welcomed the Court's injunction order staying the demolition of the temple. – ***Deccan Herald, 23<sup>rd</sup>***.

#### **26.4.2022. Mangaluru.**

City police commissioner N Shashi Kumar has suspended inspector Sandesh PG and three other staff members of the Bajpe police station, pending departmental inquiry, for allegedly assaulting three youths at the police station. The action was taken based on a preliminary report submitted by ACP North Sub Division Mahesh Kumar. DCP (Law and Order) Hariram Shankar will conduct a detailed inquiry into the incident. Other suspended staff of the police station are Syed Intiyaz, Praveen and Sunil.

The Commissioner said that three youth from Kateel had accused the inspector and three others of improper behaviour and had alleged that they were assaulted at the police station. Two of the youth are undergoing treatment at Government Wenlock Hospital and one is being treated at Sanjeevani Hospital in Kateel for blunt injuries and bruises on their body.

In the background to the incident, the Commissioner said that Mangaluru Assistant Commissioner had ordered to clearing of unauthorised shops near Kateel Durgaparameshwari Temple. However, a few shops had reopened. When a person from Moodbidri had arrived to unload tender coconuts near one of the shops, two youths had intercepted him and prevented him from unloading them. The incident was brought to the notice of the Bajpe Inspector. The two youths failed to respond to the queries of the police on the incident. When they failed to respond, they were allegedly assaulted. Another person who visited the police station to release them on behalf of their parents was also allegedly assaulted.

The Commissioner said that all the police personnel have been directed to be careful of their conduct and behaviour while dealing with the public. Any issues at the police station should be brought to the notice of the higher officials. – ***Deccan Herald, 27<sup>th</sup>***.

Members of various like-minded organisations have condemned the suspension of Bajpe Inspector Sandesh and three other staff members at the station. The suspension should be withdrawn immediately. If it is not withdrawn, then a protest will be staged, warned DYFI State President Muneer Katipalla and Yashwanth Maroli, president of Akhila Bharatha Vakeelara Sangha, DK Unit and others. "The Bajpe station inspector and others had taken legal action against BJP workers for issuing threats to Muslim vendors at Kateel. However, it is unfortunate that they were suspended by the government," they charged. The BJP government has been implementing its agenda of creating hate among communities and keeping Muslims away from the mainstream through the BJP workers, they added. – *Deccan Herald*, 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11.5.2022. Udupi.**

Some Hindu activists allegedly questioned members of a Muslim family who were on a picnic in Hebri for cooking fish near a temple and Nagabana on the banks of Seethanadi. The video is being circulated on the social media. On noticing the family cooking fish on the banks of the river, locals objected claiming the sanctity of the Nagabana is polluted. Some Hindu activists who visited the spot questioned the Muslim family for cooking fish near a temple and Nagabana and urged them not to do so. The family later apologized for the incident. The Hebri police said that no case was registered. – *Deccan Herald*, 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **16.5.2022. Mangaluru.**

Pictures of *ganahoma* (sacrificial ritual in honour of Lord Ganesha) being performed at some schools on the re-opening day today have gone viral on the social media. Reportedly schools at Padibagilu near Vittal, Hariharapallatadka in Sullia taluk and Punjalakatte performed this Hindu religious ritual. Replying to queries, the district educational officer for Bantwal informed that a show-cause notice will be sent to the concerned schools and based on their replies action will be taken. Meanwhile the Deputy Commissioner said that an inquiry has been ordered into the incident. – *Karaval Ale*, 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6.6.2022. Karkala.**

Residents of Bola village panchayat in Karkala taluk of Udupi district were caught off guard when they noticed that a signboard naming a newly asphalted road after Nathuram Godse had been put up by someone. The Udupi district police removed the 'Padugiri Nathuram Godse Road' signboard that had been installed by the roadside. Karkala taluk is the home constituency of Energy and Kannada & Culture Minister V. Sunil Kumar. The incident came to light following circulation of a photograph of the signboard on social media. Local Youth Congress activists tweeted that they would launch an agitation for removal of the signboard. Bola Gram Panchayat vice-president S. Kiran Kumar said people were shocked to see the board bearing Godse's name. "The gram panchayat has not taken any decision to name that newly asphalted road after Godse. Some miscreants have installed the signboard to create a controversy," he told *The Hindu*. Following a complaint by panchayat development officer Rajendra, the Karkala Rural police removed the board, Mr. Kumar said. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer H. Prasanna said Mr. Rajendra, in his complaint, had sought action against persons who had installed the board to create unrest in society. – *The Hindu*, 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6.6.2022. Mangaluru.**

The University College administration here was left red-faced after a video showing a few students mounting a Veer Savarkar photo in a college classroom started making rounds on the social media. The photo was said to have been removed later. The incident reportedly occurred in a classroom in the college here on Monday, June 6 evening and was uncovered much later. According to sources, a few students brought in portraits of Bharat

Mata and Savarkar and put it above the black board. The incident was brought to the notice of the principal by another group of students. On Tuesday morning, the principal warned the students and subsequently removed the photo. Some students had uploaded the footage of the photo mounting on to social media, which was shared by multiple people. Principal Dr Anasuya, reportedly, warned the students for mounting the photo without permission. The students were also made to give a written apology for uploading the video on social media, and thereby violating the college's discipline. – **Deccanherald.com, 8<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/mangaluru-university-college-students-mount-portrait-of-veer-savarkar-in-classroom-later-removed-1116508.html>

**T**ension prevailed at the University College here, after a group of students came to blows over the incident of Veer Savarkar's photo being put up in a classroom. The fight occurred on campus at about 12.45 pm on Friday June 10. Three students were allegedly injured and were admitted to a hospital. To alleviate the situation, the principal declared the campus closed for the day. Students of University College, Mohammed Marzuk, Mohammed Ifaz and Aboobakkar Siddiq filed a complaint at Pandeshwara police station alleging they were assaulted after being interrogated for complaining to the college principal about the photo mounting. The students in their complaint also alleged that they were assaulted by members of ABVP. In a countercomplaint, Prajan Shetty and Swasthik (full name?) alleged that a few students pushed Shetty around and assaulted Swasthik. Pandeshwar police said they received two complaints about the clash. According to them, one group alleged that three were injured, while another group said two had suffered injuries. The investigation is in progress said the police. The police are also verifying the video footage from CCTV cameras installed in the college. Condemning the assault, members of Campus Front of India, NSUI and Youth Congress staged a protest outside the college gate in the evening. The protesters alleged that students from Muslim community were targeted and assaulted. Earlier, Muslim students wearing hijab were prevented from entering classrooms, they said. There is a conspiracy to keep Muslim students away from pursuing their education, the protesters alleged. The protesters also claimed that no action was taken against students who had put up the portrait of Veer Savarkar inside the classroom. Those who assaulted Muslim students should be arrested, they demanded. The protesters said that they will not allow Savarkar's portrait in the college. – **Deccanherald.com, 11<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/university-college-calls-it-a-day-as-3-hurt-in-students-fight-1117147.html>

### **28.7.2022. Bellare.**

Hindutva activists attacked several shops in Guttigaru belonging to Muslims, caused damage to furniture and destroyed materials such as arecanut, vegetables, fruits etc. Shafiq, one of the two arrested in connection with Praveen Nettaru murder case, (see **26.7.2022. Bellare**) used to work in one of these shops. A scooter belonging to Moosa was set on fire. Arrival of police and a lathi-charge brought the situation under control. – **Karavali Ale, 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### **28.7.2022. Mangaluru.**

A 22-year-old man was hacked to death by unidentified miscreants near a garment shop in Surathkal Police limits tonight. Fazil of Mangalpet had come to the shop at around 9 p.m. Fazil, who works as a loader in a LPG unit, usually visits the shop after his work. As Fazil was standing outside the shop, four masked men came in a car and assaulted him with sharpweapons. They left the spot soon after he collapsed. Fazil was taken to a private hospital where he died. Immediately, Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of Cr.PC in Panambur, Surathkal, Mulky and Bajpe police limits till 6 a.m. on Saturday. Mr. Kumar said that the reason for the attack is not known. "We will quickly trace the accused," he

added. He also appealed to Muslims to offer their Friday prayers adhering to prohibitory orders, preferably in mosques nearest to them. – ***The Hindu***, 29<sup>th</sup>.

**T**he police in Mangaluru have arrested six people in connection with the murder of Muslim youth Fazil in Karnataka's Surathkal on July 28. 23-year-old Fazil, a daily wage worker at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), was hacked to death on the evening of July 28, in what is seen as a retaliatory attack in response to the murder of BJP youth wing worker Praveen Nettaru, who was attacked and killed on July 26. Police officials said that the accused were arrested near Udyavara in Udupi district in the early hours of August 2.

Speaking to the media on August 2, Mangaluru police commissioner Shashi Kumar said that the six people who have been arrested have been identified as Suhas Shetty (29), Mohan (26), Giridhar (23), Abhishek (21), Srinivas (23), and Deekshith (21). All of them were known to each other through common links, the police official said. In addition to these six persons, Ajith Crasta, the owner of the car used in the murder, was arrested by the police. The police said that the accused people, led by Suhas Shetty, planned to attack Fazil, and that they had been observing him for some days before the attack. They also recce'd the area where he works, the police said.

Suhas Shetty, who coordinated the attack on Fazil, is a resident of Bajpe in Dakshina Kannada and has four prior cases against him, including previous assaults on Muslim men and a murder case from 2010, the police said. He discussed a plan to commit a murder on the night of July 26, the day BJP youth worker Praveen Nettaru was killed in Bellare village in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada. Praveen's murder followed the murder of Masood, a resident of Kalanja in Sullia taluk on July 21. Giridhar, Abhishek, Srinivas and Deekshit are from Surathkal in Dakshina Kannada district and the police official said that it was them who planned the attack on Fazil.

According to the police, Suhas met Giridhar and Mohan Singh alias Nepali Mohan on July 27 and discussed the crime before meeting Ajith Crasta and promising him Rs 15,000 in exchange for borrowing his Hyundai Eon car for three days.

The police said that the accused persons got together on July 28 and followed Fazil in the Hyundai Eon car. Fazil, who was in Mangaluru city during the day between 12 pm and 6 pm, returned to Surathkal in the evening. He was standing in front of a clothes store — Bee Jays — when he was attacked. Police officials said that he was familiar with people who managed shops near this cloth store, in particular the owners of SK Mobiles and Bling, two shops close to the cloth store.

Around 8 pm on July 28, a group of three men arrived outside the store and attacked Fazil with a long knife. While Giridhar was driving the car, Suhas, Abhishek and Mohan got down from the car to assault Fazil as Srinivas stood guard. The assailants then fled towards the neighbouring Udupi district and abandoned the car in Inna village in Karkala taluk of the district.

The police commissioner denied that the attack was linked to a personal issue and debunked reports suggesting that Fazil was attacked by Muslim men over a love affair. He also denied that it was a case of mistaken identity and said that the police investigation showed that Fazil was targeted by the assailants.

Fazil's murder came close on the heels of the murder of BJP youth wing member Praveen Nettaru, sparking tension in the district of Dakshina Kannada and prompting authorities to impose prohibitory orders to prevent a law and order situation. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that he will visit the families of the three men who died recently — Masood, Fazil as well as Praveen. The murder of the BJP youth wing worker also led to protests by the BJP cadre against the BJP. – ***The Newsmminute***, August 2.

<https://www.thenewsmminute.com/article/six-arrested-fazil-murder-karnataka-police-say-it-was-pre-planned-166426>

It has come to light that Suhas Shetty, the main accused, besides being a rowdy-sheeter, had also been a *Gau Pramukh* of Bajrang Dal for several years in the past. He was expelled in 2020 following his alleged involvement in a murder case. The police are in possession of certain primary information that says the other five accused are connected with hindutva organizations. – **Vartha Bharati, August 3.**

### **12.8.2022. Mangaluru.**

Activists of the Sangh Parivar along with some parents rushed to the Infant Mary's English Medium High School at Katipalla near Suratkal and gheraoed the Principal over the issue of allegedly forcible removal of *rakhis* from students' hands. When the Principal tried to provide a factual explanation the activists were reportedly not willing to listen to him. They demanded an apology from the concerned teacher and also asked that *rakhis* be tied to the hands of all students. Following this, Fr. Santhosh Lobo, the President of the Parent Teacher Association tendered an apology and got a *rakhi* tied to his hand. This mollified the crowd who dispersed from the school premises.

According to a senior teacher of the school this is what happened on August 11, the *raksha bandhan* day: When *rakhis* were being tied during the lunch break one student complained to the Principal that a *rakhi* was forcibly tied to his hand. Following this complaint, all *rakhis* were untied and packed into a paper cover. But a fake news to the effect that the teacher threw all the *rakhis* into the dust bin was circulated which led to this unnecessary confusion. – **Vartha Bharati, 13<sup>th</sup>.**

### **5.9.2022. Puttur.**

In a bizarre incident, a teacher selected for this year's district-level best teachers award was prevented from attending the ceremony on teachers day - September 5. The victim is Terez M. Sequiera, the principal teacher at the Papemajalu government higher primary school in Ariadka village. On September 3 two teachers from Puttur allegedly approached her and said "Do not attend the award ceremony. Because some peoples' representatives have said that they would walk away from the programme in case you do that. Then the entire program would be ruined. That is why officials have sent us to you to tell you not to attend the programme".

Ms Sequiera's absence at the program was explained away as due to ill-health. When the chairperson and the members of the Papemajalu SDMC came to know the actual reason for Ms Sequiera's absence they condemned it and threatened to resign en-masse. The SDMC meet also took a decision to protest the incident by not sending their wards to school. When the officials of the Department of Education came to know this they rushed to the school and presented the award to Ms Sequiera on the afternoon of September 7. – **Vartha Bharati, 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### **28.9.2022. New Delhi.**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has today declared the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its front organisations including its student wing- the Campus Front of India (CFI) as an "unlawful association" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The Muslim organisation has been banned for five years along with eight associates or front organisations. The MHA has also issued another order empowering States to notify places associated with PFI and its front organisations where unlawful activity is taking place. According to the order, District Magistrate will make a list of immovable properties of the organisation and make an order that no person who at the date of the notification was not a resident in the notified place shall, without the permission of the District Magistrate, enter, or be on or in, the notified place.

State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat have recommended a ban on PFI, MHA said. It added that if there is no immediate ban, the group will continue its subversive activities, disturbing public order and undermining the constitutional set-up of the country; encourage and enforce a terror-based regressive regime; continue to propagate anti-national sentiments and radicalise a particular section of society with the intention to create disaffection against the country and aggravate activities which are detrimental to the integrity, security and sovereignty of the country.

The ban comes close on the heels of a countrywide raid on September 22 when 109 members of the groups were arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and other agencies. MHA will now set up a tribunal under UAPA to try the case where PFI could defend its case against the ban. In a notification, MHA said some of the PFI's founding members are the leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and have linkages with Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), both of which are proscribed organisations. It said that the group also has linkages to global terrorist organisations such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and participated in terror activities in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. It said the PFI cadres linked to ISIS have been killed in these conflict theatres and some have been arrested by State Police and Central Agencies.

PFI and its associates “operate openly as a socio-economic, educational and political organisation but, they have been pursuing a secret agenda to radicalise a particular section of the society working towards undermining the concept of democracy and show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set up of the country.”

The Ministry said the PFI cadres have been involved in several terrorist acts and the murder of several persons including Sanjith (Kerala, November 2021), V.Ramalingam, (Tamil Nadu, 2019), Nandu, (Kerala, 2021), Abhimanyu (Kerala, 2018), Bibin (Kerala, 2017), Sharath (Karnataka, 2017), R. Rudresh (Karnataka, 2016), Praveen Poojary (Karnataka, 2016), Sasi Kumar (Tamil Nadu, 2016) and Praveen Nettaru (Karnataka, 2022). Most murder victims as cited in the notification were members of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) or other Hindu organisations.

MHA said the “criminal activities and brutal murders have been carried out by PFI cadres for the sole objective of disturbing public peace and tranquility and creating reign of terror in public mind.” The office bearers and cadres of the PFI along with others are conspiring and raising funds from within India and abroad through the banking channels, and the hawala, donations, etc. as part of a well-crafted criminal conspiracy, and then transferring, layering and integrating these funds through multiple accounts to project them as legitimate and eventually using these funds to carry out various criminal, unlawful and terrorist activities in India, MHA said. It said the sources of deposits on behalf of PFI with respect to its several bank accounts were not supported by the financial profiles of the account holders and the activities of PFI were not being carried out as per their declared objectives and therefore, the Income Tax Department cancelled the registration granted to PFI and Rehab India Foundation under section 12A or 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961).

The Ministry said the PFI is involved in several criminal and terror cases and shows sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority of the country and with funds and ideological support from outside it has become a major threat to the internal security of the country and investigations in various cases have revealed that the PFI and its cadres have been repeatedly engaging in violent and subversive acts. “Criminal violent acts carried out by PFI include chopping off a limb of a college professor, cold-blooded killings of persons associated with organisations espousing other faiths, obtaining explosives to target prominent people and places and destruction of public property,” it said.

MHA said investigations have established clear linkages between PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts. “Rehab India Foundation collects funds through PFI members and some of the members of the PFI are also

members of Campus Front of India, Empower India Foundation, Rehab Foundation, Kerala, and the activities of Junior Front, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organization(NCHRO) and National Women's Front are monitored/coordinated by the PFI leaders," it said. The Ministry said the PFI has created the front organisations with the objective of enhancing its reach among different sections of the society such as youth, students, women, Imams, lawyers or weaker sections of the society with the sole objective of expanding its membership, influence and fundraising capacity. It added that the front groups have a 'Hub and Spoke' relationship with the PFI acting as the Hub and utilizing the mass outreach and fundraising capacity of the affiliate groups for strengthening its capability for unlawful activities and they function as 'roots and capillaries' through which the PFI is fed and strengthened. – **The Hindu, 28<sup>th</sup>**.

*Printable version | Sep 28, 2022 5:28:43 pm | <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pfi-and-eight-front-organisations-including-campus-front-of-india-banned-for-five-years/article65944776.ece>*

### **2.10.2022. Udupi.**

A huge rally taken out by a right-wing organisation in BJP-ruled Karnataka, the Hindu Jagran Vedike, on Sunday, October 2 has stirred a massive controversy. According to media reports, including NDTV, there were 10,000 participants at the rally in Udupi, with many brandishing swords, shouted slogans, even as policemen were seen walking next to them. The rally started from the Mahishamardini temple before heading towards Udupi bus stand and ending outside the Udupi Krishna temple. It included a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji with chants of "Jai Shivaji, the one who built a Hindu rashtra" raised by the participants. A minister in the state cabinet and an MLA were among the participants. It was V Sunil Kumar, minister for culture, and MLA Raghupathy Bhat who both took part in the rally. The Hindu Jagran Vedike is affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the parliamentary wing of the ruling BJP.

Several activists took to social media, demanding action against all rally participants for wielding swords, in this threatening fashion. However, police told NDTV that since no complaint had been made, no action has been initiated against the organisers. The police clearly do not independently work when crimes are committed. When contacted by NDTV to speak to the channel on the issue, R Ashok, the Minister for Revenue, about the rally, he evaded all questions. Udupi district has been in the news for the last one year over communal killings, the hijab ban and the ban on Muslim vendors. – **Sabrangindia, 4<sup>th</sup>**.

*<https://sabrangindia.in/article/police-walk-sword-wielding-right-wing-members-rally-karnataka>*

### **8.10.2022. Puttur.**

Tension prevailed for some time after Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Memorial Circle at Eshwaramangala Pete in Puttur taluk was reportedly covered with a green cloth by a Muslim group during the Eid Milad celebrations today. As a result the name of Unnikrishnan was not visible, Hindu organizations expressed displeasure at the act of covering the Circle with a cloth, Members of Hindu Jagran Vedike warned of staging a protest if the green cloth was not removed. Later the group removed the cloth on the directions of the police. HJV leader Chinmay Rai from Eshwaramangala said, 'We had objected to the covering of the Circle with a green cloth which hid the name of Unnikrishnan. We did not object to the use of flags and buntings in the Circle.' – **Deccan Herald, 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### **15.10.2022. Belthangady.**

A complaint had been registered with the Belthangady police alleging that 'jihadis' had tried to attack and kill MLA Harish Poonja with a sword on October 13. It was claimed by Harish Poonja that 'jihadis' attempted to kill him because he was working for Hindutva. But subsequent police investigation revealed this to be untrue. The

police found that it was actually a case of road rage. A team of local Congress leaders led by the Youth Congress president Anil Pai has submitted a memorandum to the Belthangady police urging them to take strict legal action against Harish Poonja for making up a fake story and thereby creating confusion and disturbing peace in the society. – **Vartha Bharati, 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### **20.10.2022. Udupi.**

Hindu Jagaran Vedike has lodged a police complaint against Kannada actor Chetan Ahimsa for allegedly 'hurting' Hindu sentiments in the Udupi district of Karnataka, police said today. Hindu Jagran Vedike, a right-wing group affiliated to the RSS, has mentioned that actor Chetan Ahimsa had issued derogatory and insulting statements while making comments on the tradition of 'Bhoota Kola' used in the superhit Kantara movie. The complaint also alleges that the actor had hurt the sentiments of Hindus. Actor Chetan Ahimsa allegedly also hurt the sentiments of Hindus by putting up posts on social media. The Hindu group has urged the police to summon the actor to the police station and stop him from issuing statements hurting Hindus. Reacting to the statement of Rishab Shetty, the Director and hero of the Kantara movie, Chetan Ahimsa stated that the tradition of Bhoota Kola is not a part of the Hindu religion and it existed even before the Hindu religion came into existence. 'Like how the Hindi language can't be imposed, Hindutva can't be imposed on people. Hindutva is different from Hinduism. Bhoota Kola is the tradition of natives of the land. It won't come under the Hindu religion' Chetan Ahimsa had stated stirring a controversy. – **Mangalorean.com, 20<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/complaint-lodged-against-kannada-actor-for-hurting-hindu-sentiments/>

### **20.10.2022. Puttur.**

Door-to-door salesmen Ramizuddin, a resident of Addur village of Mangaluru taluk and his relative Rafiq were beaten up with wooden clubs and iron rods by a group of 20-30 persons at Bedraje in Kaniyoor village on October 20. Thinking that the two men had died the group then threw their bodies on to a mud road and went away. Later they concocted a story that the victims had tried to behave indecently with a woman at her home in Bedraje and when the woman raised an alarm the salesmen fled the spot and died when their car overturned. But actually the victims had only lost consciousness due to the heavy beating. They got themselves admitted to a hospital and lodged a complaint of assault. Meanwhile a video of the lynching had gone viral and the Bellare police were on the look-out for the members of the group. – **Karavali Ale, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**B**ellare police have arrested six people in connection with thrashing of two door-to-door salesmen selling bedsheets, at Bedraje in Kaniyoor of Kadaba taluk. SP Rishikesh Sonawane named the convicts as Punith, Raju, Prasad, Kishore, Bhavith and Ranjith. In a complaint, victims Rafiq and Ramizuddin had alleged that there was an argument over buying bedsheets at a house in Kadaba taluk. While travelling towards Kaniyoor, a group of people arrived in a pick up vehicle, stopped the car in Bedraje and began to abuse and beat the salesmen with sticks and iron rods. The police had booked a case against the unknown persons under various sections of the IPC on October 20. In the same incident, the police had also booked a case against victims of assault Rafiq and Ramizuddin for allegedly outraging the modesty of a woman while selling bedsheets. The SP said both are in hospital and are under police guard. – **Deccan Herald, 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/bedsheet-salesmen-beaten-in-mangaluru-6-arrested-1156199.html>

### **11.12.2022. Bengaluru.**

Karnataka government will soon issue a circular renaming Salaam Aarati, a ritual started by Tipu Sultan as Aarati Namaskara. Shashikala Jolle, Minister for Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments told

The Hindu that the official circular will be issued to all temples following this ritual. The ritual was conducted in the famous temples of Puttur, Subramanya, Kollur, Melkote, and others in the then-Mysuru kingdom.

This move comes after various Hindutva outfits urged the state government to end the rituals performed in the name of Tipu Sultan. The decision was made following a meeting of the Karnataka Dharmika Parishat. Kashekodi Suryanarayana Bhat, Member of Karnataka Dharmika Parishat stated that earlier the ritual was conducted for the welfare of state administration, now it will be for the welfare of the people. Now, the ritual would be named 'Namaskara'. The government's stance is consistent with the BJP's position on Tipu Sultan. According to the BJP, he was an "anti-Hindu" ruler who murdered, pillaged and forced Hindus to convert whereas the Congress views Tipu as a "valiant hero" and "patriot" who lost his life resisting the British. – **The Newsminute, 11<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/karnataka-government-rename-salaam-aarati-started-tipu-sultan-170822>

### **21.12.2022. Mangaluru.**

In a memorandum submitted to the Commissioner of Police, the Bajrang Dal has expressed its opposition to special New Year parties being organized at hotels and pubs. The memo also urges that young men from other faiths should not be allowed to attend New Year parties. Puneet Attavar, leader of the Bajrang Dal has warned the owners of all hotels and pubs not to admit young men from other faiths to such parties since these parties are just an excuse for 'love jihad' and 'drugs jihad'. – **Karavali Ale, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **24.12.2022. Mangaluru.**

Miscreants stabbed a man to death at Krishnapur 4th block here on December 24. The deceased has been identified as Jalil, a resident of Krishnapur. According to sources, on December 24, miscreants barged into Jalil's shop, stabbed him in the chest and fled from the spot. Severely injured Jalil was rushed to the hospital but he breathed his last without responding to the treatment. Suratkal police have visited the spot for further investigations. – **Mangalorean.com, 24<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/man-stabbed-to-death-at-suratkal/>

The city police on Monday arrested three persons in connection with the murder of a 45-year-old shopkeeper Abdul Jaleel in Katipalla 4th block, near Surathkal, on December 24. Police gave the names of the arrested as Shailesh Poojary, 21, of Katipalla Krishnapura; Savin Kanchan, 24, of Mulki; and Pavan Pachhu, 23, of Katipalla 3rd block. The police said Shailesh and Savin had stabbed Jaleel, while Pavan had provided his motorcycle in which the two escaped from the spot. Talking to reporters here on Monday, Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar said the three accused persons were produced on Monday before the jurisdictional magistrate, who allowed police to keep the accused in police custody for 14 days. The police, he said, have questioned 12 persons, including some women and Jaleel's family members, and have so far arrested three persons. Earlier, Shailesh and Savin had involved in some criminal cases, including in an attempt to murder case reported in a city police station in 2021. Mr. Kumar said the reason behind the murder will be revealed following completion of the investigation.

The two alleged assailants, Shailesh and Savin, came to the shop of Jaleel on December 24 at about 8 p.m. and questioned Jaleel for being close with a woman. Following heated exchange, the assailants tried to assault Jaleel, who managed to run out of his shop. As he slipped a few meters away from the shop, the assailants followed Jaleel and stabbed him. As assailants escaped, residents informed police and arranged to shift Jaleel to a private hospital in Mukka where he succumbed.

The police had recovered from the spot the sharp weapon used by the assailants for the murder. Family members and residents of Katipalla on Sunday stopped movement of the ambulance carrying Jaleel's body and demanded immediate arrest of persons involved in the murder. After an assurance by the Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar, the vehicle was allowed to move to a masjid in Panjimogaru where the last rites of Jaleel were performed. – **The Hindu, 27<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Allegedly by Muslim Fundamentalists**

### **26.7.2022. Bellare.**

Thirty-one-year-old Praveen Kumar Nettaru, a member of BJP Yuva Morcha and a resident of Sullia was hacked to death Tuesday, 26 July night. Two unknown bike-borne miscreants had attacked him with swords and fled the scene. Praveen owned a chicken shop at Peruvaje Cross, Bellare village near Puttur. Though Praveen was immediately rushed to a hospital, he succumbed to his deep injury in the neck. Further details are awaited.

Soon after the incident, BJP Yuva Morcha members staged a protest in front of the hospital and demanded that the Deputy Collector visit the spot immediately. Hindu activists are claiming that Praveen was targeted as revenge to the incident of murder of a youth belonging to minority community four days ago. Social media posts were abuzz with calls for revenge and police are suspecting it to be a revenge killing. With the activists alleging that the murder is a revenge killing by miscreants belonging to minority community, the incident has taken a communal turn. As a protest, the Hindu organisations have given a bandh call in Puttur, Sullia and Kadaba taluks of the district on July 27. They have decided to take out a procession of the body from Puttur to Bellare. Bellare police have registered the case and formed 4 special teams to nab the culprits. Further investigation is on. Security has been beefed up across the communally sensitive district and coastal region. – **The Mangalorean, 27<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.mangalorean.com/bjp-yuva-morcha-member-hacked-to-death-in-mangaluru/>

In this connection, the police have arrested Zakir of Savanur and Shafiq of Bellare in Kasargod. District Superintendent of Police, Hrishikesh Sonawane has said that Shafiq was the main person behind the conspiracy to kill Praveen. Shafiq was a member of SDPI and was actively involved in party mobilization work, he said. According to the SP the prime accused in the murder is yet to be traced. – **Karavali Ale, 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### **22.9.2022. Gangolli.**

The Gangolli unit of *Hindu Jagran Vedike* has registered a complaint at the Gangolli Police Station saying that in the early morning today some miscreants have caused damage to a banner announcing a '*Durga Daud*' programme to be held at Udupi. The *HJV* suspects the miscreants to be activists of the PFI and SDPI. The banner had been put up near the Gangolli check-post by the local *gram panchayat* about a week ago. – **Karavali Ale, 25<sup>th</sup>**.

### **20.12.2022. Mangaluru.**

An 'Ayyappa Vrathadhari', a class 8 student in a school near Mahaveer Circle, was allegedly assaulted by his seniors on Tuesday, December 20. A case of assault was registered in the Kankanady town police station and

the student who sustained injuries was admitted in a government hospital. The police said there were frequent petty clashes between students of eighth and ninth standards. The teachers, tipped about the clashes also had reprimanded the students and let them off with a warning. Once again a clash broke out on Tuesday between students of class 8 and 9 for the same reason. After school, four students from class 9 assaulted the 'Ayyappa Vrathadhari' when he was waiting for his bus. Activists of Hindutva organizations gathered at the spot alleging that the students who assaulted the 'Ayyappa Vrathadhari' were from a different religion. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A case has been registered at the Kankanady police station. – *Prajavani* , 21<sup>st</sup>.

## IT'S TIME FOR POLICE ENCOUNTERS, SAYS ASHWATH NARAYAN ON DAKSHINA KANNADA MURDERS

Bharath Joshi

Karnataka IT and Higher Education Minister CN Ashwath Narayan on Friday, July 29, pitched for police encounters as a way to deal with communal and political killings. "Our government is sending out a clear message. At no cost will the killers get any leeway. There will be indiscriminate action. We're ready to do encounters," Narayan told reporters. "In the coming days, such people should shiver. They shouldn't even dream of committing a murder. The time for encounters has come. We will take strict action so that no such killings happen going forward," he said. "There's a limit for patience. We won't tolerate any more." Narayan was responding to outrage expressed by Hindu nationalists against the BJP government following the murder of Yuva Morcha member Praveen Nettaru. Asked about adopting the so-called 'Yogi Adityanath' model of Uttar Pradesh, Narayan said: "We will go five steps ahead of the UP model. Karnataka is a progressive state that is a model for other states. So, our model will be one that others will emulate." Defending the government, Narayan said the police have made arrests in such cases. "Our home department and the government are working effectively. There's still anger. We will honour the sentiments," he said.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/top-karnataka-stories/it-s-time-for-police-encounters-says-ashwath-narayan-on-dakshina-kannada-murders-1131186.html>

<https://www.deccanherald.com/speak-out/speak-out-july-30-2022-1131409.html>

## THE BJP GOVERNMENT IN KARNATAKA GIVES CLEAN CHIT TO ACCUSED IN COMMUNAL DISTURBANCE CASES

G.Mahantesh

The 'file.in' has, under the RTI act, obtained more than 251 records pertaining to withdrawal of cases under trial during the period from 2013-14 to February 2022. They reveal that prosecution has withdrawn a total of 600 cases during the period between 2013-14 and 2017-18.

The records show that after the BJP came to power in Karnataka, a whopping total of **330** cases have been withdrawn in just one year alone (**2019-20**). Most of these cases pertain to disturbing communal harmony, sowing seeds of hatred amongst the public, spreading fake and provocative messages, manipulating video clips in order to create enmity against Muslim community, hurting religious feelings and causing damage to public

assets. A large number of the accused in most of these cases are members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishat (VHP), Bajrang Dal and activists of Uttara Kannada Hindu Balaga. As far as the Kaveri Water Dispute and farmers' agitations are concerned, only a handful of cases have been withdrawn. The RTI records reveal that cases against members of PFI and SDPI have not been withdrawn. Significantly, the government has provided information regarding cases withdrawn during 2019-20 only. No information has been supplied regarding cases withdrawn in 2021-22.

Though the erstwhile Congress government had withdrawn cases pertaining to farmers, naxals and pro-Kannada agitations, it had not withdrawn any case pertaining to disturbing communal harmony. – **Vartha Bharati, March 28.**

## **BJP STARTS SAFFRONISING EDUCATION IN KARNATAKA BY DISCREDITING TIPU SULTAN**

After the hijab row and the ban on Muslim traders nearby Hindu temples, the Karnataka government is all set to revise school textbooks and delete some 'sensitive' chapters, including the glorification of Tipu Sultan.

Rohith Chakrathirtha-headed Textbook Revision Committee of the state government has submitted its report, highly placed sources in the government confirmed. The sources said the government is all set to make the changes in the school textbooks.

Earlier, the students were taught that 'other religions came into existence due to drawbacks of Vaidika (Hindu) religion' which had led to a huge controversy in the state. The controversial lesson was taught to the students of Class 6.

The Rohith Chakrathirtha committee has now revised the Class 6 to 10 textbooks of the Social Science subject. Chakrathirtha is regarded as a right wing thinker and the Opposition Congress had described his appointment by the ruling BJP as an attempt to 'saffronise' education.

According to sources, the committee has included lessons on the Ahom dynasty, which ruled Northeast India for 600 years, the Karkota dynasty, which ruled many parts of north India and the lessons on Kashmir history also included. There is also a lesson on the controversial Baba Budangiri and Dattapeeth.

Sources said that lessons on Kashmir and Bababudangiri as well as Dattapeeth are likely to stir controversy in the state. Baba Budangiri as well as Dattapeeth have been flash points between the Hindus and Muslims in Karnataka.

Sources also explained that the committee has dropped the parts which glorified Mysuru king Tipu Sultan. But, a lesson on him is retained as it has historical significance.

The committee was formed by the ruling BJP government in 2017 to look into the issue of some aspects which hurt the Hindu sentiments in Social Science Part 1 and also examined other such sensitive aspects till Class 10.

Sources confirmed that the government has accepted the revised syllabus and had given green signal for publication of these books for the academic year 2022-23.

B.C. Nagesh, Minister for Education, stated that the report in this regard has been received. The department has consented for revision of textbooks as per the suggestion of the committee. More details would be given later, he said.

The Class 6 social science book contained lessons which said drawbacks in the 'Vaidika Dharma' led to the birth of other religions in India. It was also taught that during 'Yagnas' animals, which were used for agriculture, were sacrificed and as foodgrains were burnt during the religious rituals, there was a shortage of food. The issue created huge controversy in Karnataka and it was alleged that the lessons promoted anti-Hindu sentiments. — IANS. – **Muslim Mirror**, March 25.

<https://muslimmirror.com/eng/bjp-starts-saffronising-education-in-karnataka-by-discrediting-tipu-sultan/>

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**Compiled by:** Suresh Bhat B., member, Karnataka Communal Harmony Forum and PUCL Mangaluru.

**Note:** 1) All data are based on available local media reports. It is likely that there could be quite a number of unreported cases too.

2) **Highlighted** reports containing relevant information but where the identity of perpetrators is not known are not counted.