



Date: March 21, 2023

To,

1. Mr. Ankit Goyal,

Superintendent of Police, Rural Pune

Email: sp.pune.r@mahapolice.gov.in

2. Mr LG Thate,

Assistant Police Inspector, Pargaon

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3. Mr SureshKumar Raut,

Police Inspector, Shirur

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Subject: Intimation about Gudhi pujan in various taluka in Pune, Maharashtra

Dear Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace are writing to you to intimate you that Hindu Janajagruti Sabha (HJS) has organized several Gudhi Pujan events across Maharashtra on March 22, which is the day Gudi Padwa is being celebrated. Such events are scheduled to be held at the following locations, as per their website:

1. Tukai Temple, Salu-Malu, Pargaon
2. Bhairavnath Temple, Landewadi
3. Bhairavnath Temple, Hivare gaon
4. Gram Panchayat Chowk, Nira

We would like to point out that HJS has a long and recent history of inviting speakers for delivering hate speech at their events and carrying out rallies, while raising inciteful and anti-Muslim slogans.

A brief profile of Hindu Janajagruti Sabha (HJS) with its history of spreading hate and making hate speech against the religious minority is annexed herewith as Annexure A

This intimation is in apprehension of a possible law and order situation that could arise in case any of these gatherings go haywire and disturb public order. Our apprehension is due to such religious gatherings turning into processions and creating communal issues. This apprehension is based on previous incidents from last year during celebration of 'Hanuman Jayanti' and 'Ram Navami'.

We would like to bring to your attention that in Gir Somnath, Gujarat, during Hanuman Jayanti a saffron flag was hoisted atop a dargah by some miscreants. Ram Navami on April 10, 2022 was marred with clashes, stone-pelting, *trishul diksha*, attacks on students and many other instances of violent communal confrontation in Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. One death was reported in Gujarat; at least 10 persons were injured in stone pelting in Jharkhand, 10 houses were burnt during violent clashes in Madhya Pradesh and violence was reported in West Bengal, all in one day when Ram Navami was celebrated.

To avoid any such untoward incidents of violence and breach of peace, we urge you to keep vigilance on these meets for 'Gudhi Pujan' that have been widely proposed across the state of Maharashtra.

After Maharashtra saw communal violence in 1970, Justice DP Madon Commission was established which had recommended that before granting permission to the organizers to take out a procession likely to provoke trouble the officer concerned should undertake a thorough reconnaissance of the proposed route even before prescribing a route for it under section 36 of the Bombay Police Act. The recommendations also state that each procession must be divided in sectors and a police officer should be put in charge of each section. Further it states that mammoth processions should never be permitted to march through the streets even if peaceful and that police parties should be at the "head and tail" of each procession of controversial nature.

Sir, in view of the history of such religious processions leading to disruption of law and order, just in the past one year, we urge that you take necessary preventive and cautionary measures to ensure no untoward incident takes place. Also, steps need to be taken keeping in view the history of Hindu Janajagruti Sabha (HJS) which is organising these events, since they have a long history of attempting to incite people to resort to violence against the minority community. We request you to closely monitor these events/rallies for incidents of violence and/or hate speech.

Sir, we humbly urge you to take action as you may deem necessary and fit in view of what has been mentioned above.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary