

**URGENT****Date: May 6, 2026**

To,

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**Subject: Formal complaint seeking registration of FIR under Sections 196, 197, 299, 302, 352, and 353 of the BNS, 2023 against Harshu Thakur for delivering derogatory communal hate speech at the Virat Hindu Sannelan held on April 19, 2026, in Junnar, Pune (Maharashtra)**

Dear Sirs,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), a human rights movement dedicated to furthering the constitutional rights of all Indians, are deeply concerned about the divisive communal rhetoric expressed by far-right influencer Harshu Thakur during her speech delivered at the Virat Hindu Sannelan on April 19, 2026, in Junnar, Pune (Maharashtra). At this event, Thakur spread anti-Muslim hate speech while promoting unfounded conspiracy theories regarding "forest *Jihad*," "love *Jihad*," and "land *Jihad*," and issuing direct, graphic calls for the arming of civilians. In her inflammatory speech, Thakur falsely claimed that madrasas produce "only terrorists" and "extremists," and that *Mulla-Maulvis* provide training on how to trap girls and make bombs. This rhetoric serves to intimidate Muslims, portraying them as an existential threat to Hindu society. She specifically targeted the Malik Dargah in Bele, Bangarwadi, and Islamic burial practices, claiming that "wherever there is open land, there are graves." This statement not only spreads fear but also acts as a deliberate provocation intended to breach public peace and incite confrontation over land and religious structures.

Thakur openly encouraged religious alienation and the arming of women, an anti-Constitutional move that violates Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution. By telling the audience that every Hindu woman needs to be "given a weapon" and should become "lionesses" (*Waghini*) to make "*Jihadis* dance at the tip of the sword," she incites violence and exclusion based on religion. She further dehumanised the minority community by using the derogatory collective term "Abduls" to suggest that they are inherently untrustworthy, stating "those who don't belong to their own sisters won't belong to ours." Thakur's

statements hold the potential to incite hatred and discord between religious communities. Her words are not only a blatant violation of constitutional values but also a direct threat to the communal harmony that is essential for the well-being of our diverse nation.

As an organisation promoting communal harmony, we are compelled to inquire whether appropriate action is being taken in accordance with the directives issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Bombay High Court. The Constitutional Courts have specifically ordered detailed investigations and prosecutions in relation to hate speech, and we urge the authorities to adhere to these directions, ensuring that such divisive rhetoric does not go unchecked.

In this context, we bring to your attention the disturbing video of Thakur's speech that has surfaced, which not only encourages hatred but also seeks to justify extreme physical violence under the guise of religion. It is crucial that the police and authorities take stringent action to prevent further harm to the peace and harmony of our nation

Harshu Thakur's speech delivered in Junnar on April 19, 2026, exhibits clear traits of hate speech, aimed specifically at the Muslim community. This speech propagates communal narratives designed to incite fear, promote division, and propagate hatred. The speech targets a specific religious group, spreading intimidation and portraying their religious institutions as breeding grounds for terrorism. In doing so, Thakur's rhetoric falls squarely within the definition of hate speech, as per the Supreme Court's judgment in *Amish Devgan v. Union of India (2021)*, (2021) 1 SCC 1. This judgment outlines that hate speech is not merely an expression but an act intended to foster hatred and fear against a specific group without any legitimate or reasonable purpose. Thakur's inflammatory remarks in this speech serve no purpose other than to deepen communal divisions and sow mistrust.

The Supreme Court, in the *Amish Devgan* case (*Supra*), emphasised that hate speech must have a subjective intent to target and harm a particular community or group. The Court stressed the importance of safeguarding the dignity, equality, and social status of all individuals, regardless of their religion, in ensuring a just and democratic society. Thakur's speech directly contradicts these principles, using derogatory dog-whistles and unfounded grounds of intimidation that only serve to dehumanise and isolate a particular community.

Thakur's claims establishing a narrative of "Jihad" in every aspect of life (Forest, Land, Love) and her inflammatory comments targeting madrasas and dargahs serve no legitimate purpose other than to foster a climate of fear, distrust, and potential rioting. Her statements propagate aggressive dominance, which fuels communal hatred. The speech depicts minorities as an opposing force that must be violently suppressed, further embedding stereotypes and justifying exclusionary practices. Such statements are intended to create an atmosphere of suspicion and hostility, thus violating Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), which criminalises speech that promotes enmity between communities.

### **Transcript and English translation of the speech:**

Location: Junnar, Pune Maharashtra [Date: April 19, 2026]

*"There is Malik Dargah in Bele, Bangarwadi... Forest Jihad is going on. I mean, look—wherever there is open land, there are graves (thadge). Wherever there is open land, there are graves."*

*"Hindu women leave 33 crore gods and goddesses and go to the tombs (mazars) of corpses. Now, why go to those tombs when they don't even have a face? Show me which god among the 33 crore deities doesn't have a face."*

*"People say, 'Blind follower, blind follower' (Andh Bhakt). There is proof of Lord Shri Ram's existence. There is the Ram Setu bridge. But where have they shown you the Ram Setu? What they show you is that [other structure] as a symbol of love."*

*"But if you start funding madrasas, then only terrorists will be produced there. Only extremists will be produced there. We must remember this too."*

*"After coming out of madrasas, Mulla-Maulvis give them training on how to trap girls in 'Love Jihad' and how to carry out 'Land Jihad'. They are taught how to make bombs. Tell me truly, I swear by Mother India—tell me in which temple have they taught how to make bombs?"*

*"Several FIRs have been filed against those who wore saffron (Bhagwa). Teach religion and values to your girls, only then they won't fall prey to 'Love Jihad'. Only then will they understand that all these 'Abduls' are the same—those who don't belong to their own sisters won't belong to ours. Start telling your daughters about the difference between religion and faith at home."*

*"Why are Hindutvawadi organizations here? They are here to preserve religion, values, and culture. There is Durga Vahini, Vishva Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, RSS, Sangha, Hindu Jagran... there are so many Hindutvawadi organizations. There is Shri Ram Sena in every district and every taluka."*

*"Instead of putting your girls in dance classes taught by dancing women, involve them in Hindutvawadi organizations. Make them lionesses (Waghini)! Why train them to be dancers or performers? Are we performers? No! We are the ones who made Jihadis dance on the battlefield at the tip of the sword! That is why every Hindu woman just needs to be given a weapon—she doesn't need to be taught; she will learn on her own."*

*"That is why I am telling you again—preserve religion, preserve culture. If the Bindi (Tikli) stays on the forehead, the girl stays within the religion. Otherwise, remember, she will be seen in a Hijab."*

[Time Stamp: 0:01 – 02:46]

Link: <https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/4317>

The video of the speech has been downloaded by CJP is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure A

## How elements in the speech constitute Hate Speech:

### 1. Spread of conspiratorial narratives and alienation

In her speech, the speaker uses terms like “Forest Jihad,” “Land Jihad,” and “Love Jihad” to portray everyday activities of the Muslim community as parts of a clandestine war against Hindus. The claim that madrasas are factories for terrorists and bomb-making is a highly inflammatory and false allegation intended to cast suspicion on minority educational institutions. By presenting these conspiracies as fact, the speaker aims to create fear and division, which is a hallmark of hate speech.

### 2. Direct incitement to arm civilians and violence

The speaker intensifies the danger by calling for Hindu women to be armed: "every Hindu woman just needs to be given a weapon—she doesn't need to be taught; she will learn on her own." This explicitly encourages vigilantism and the use of weapons against a perceived religious "other." By referencing "making *Jihadis* dance on the battlefield at the tip of the sword," the speaker glorifies violence and incites the crowd to view their neighbours as combatants.

### 3. Dehumanisation and social boycott

The use of the term "Abduls" as a derogatory collective noun for Muslim men, combined with the claim that they "don't belong to their own sisters," is a classic dehumanisation tactic. It suggests an inherent lack of morality or loyalty in an entire religious group, encouraging Hindu families to isolate and distrust them. This form of social alienation serves to deepen divisions within society and invites systemic persecution.

### 4. Deliberate provocation targeting religious sites and practices

The speaker's attack on dargahs (*mazars*) and burial grounds ("graves wherever there is open land") is designed to provoke conflict over religious geography. By mocking those who visit tombs and calling them "*mazars* of corpses," she intentionally insults religious feelings to provoke a reaction, reducing minority religious sites to targets of majoritarian aggression.

### Recent Directions of the Supreme Court on preventing/prosecuting hate speakers in Maharashtra

As you must know, the issue of rampant hate speech being delivered and the inaction by law enforcement agencies has been highlighted before the Supreme Court multiple times since 2023. We would like to highlight that on February 3, 2023, the Supreme Court issued directions with respect to an event which was scheduled to be held in Mumbai on February 5, 2023 by the Sakal Hindu Samaj, another extremist fringe Hindutva group. The petitioner, Shaheen Abdullah, had contended that similar to its anti-Muslim speech during 'Hindu Jan Aakrosh Morcha' held in Mumbai on January 29, it can be apprehended that the same will be repeated during the February 5 meeting as well. The apex court had thus sought a video of the entire event to be scrutinised by the court at the next hearing. The court has also taken an undertaking from the government of Maharashtra that if permission for this event is granted "it will be subject to the condition that nobody will make any hate speech and in defiance of law or disturbing the public order."

The court also outlined directives with respect to taking preventive action in such cases:

*"We also direct that the Officer(s), in case, permission is granted and, in case, the occasion arises for invoking the power under Section 151 of Cr.P.C. as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the Officer(s) concerned to invoke the said power and to act as per the mandate of Section 151 of the Cr.P.C."*

Even in 2024 itself, while on January 17, the Supreme Court bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta had expressed their anguish at the petitioners being forced to approach the Supreme Court multiple times against individuals and organisations even after there being guidelines for tacking and taking action against hate speeches. During the said hearing, the Supreme Court issued an order directing the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police at Yavatmal, Maharashtra and Raipur, Chhattisgarh to take 'appropriate steps' to ensure that no incitement to hate speech occurs at the rallies

scheduled in the said districts in the coming few days of January. The said order was passed following the concerns raised by the petitioners over delivery of potential hate speeches at rallies planned by Hindu Janjagruti Samiti and Bharatiya Janata Party Legislator T Raja Singh in the month of January.

The court had outlined directives with respect to taking preventive action in such cases:

*"We would require the authorities to be conscious that no incitement to violence and hate speech are permissible. The concerned District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police of Yavatmal, Maharashtra and Raipur, Chhattisgarh will take necessary steps, as may be required. If necessary and deemed appropriate, police/administration will install CCTV Cameras having recording facility, so as to ensure identification of the perpetrators in the event of any violence/hate speech."*

### **Circulars issued by DGP Maharashtra in February 2023 and May 2023 urging strict action on Hate Speech**

In Circular No. DGP 20/ Petition No.940/ 2022/54.2023. issued by Dr Suhas Warke (Spl. Inspector General of Police (L&O) for The Director General of Police M.S., Mumbai), dated February 2, 2023, the Supreme Court order dated January 13, 2023 has been highlighted where the court had asked the police to ensure that as and when any speech which attracts offences such as Sections 153A, 153B and 295A and 505 of the IPC take place, suo moto action is taken if no complaint is forthcoming.

The circular had directed all Unit Commanders to follow the Supreme Court order.

The Circular No. DGP/20/Petition No. 940-2022/54/2023 issued by Dr Suhas Warke (Spl. Inspector General of Police (L&O) for The Director General of Police M.S., Mumbai), dated April 3, 2023, entails *"measures to be taken to maintain law and order due to agitations, morchas, speeches etc."*

It gives detailed instructions on what steps are to be taken when any *morchas* are to be held:

*"2. All the Unit Commanders should hold a meeting with the concerned organisers before such a morcha and fix the route of the morcha with appropriate terms and condition. A combined meeting of all social groups should be taken to convey clearly to all that they should maintain peace and keep law and order during the morcha. Preventive action against Anti-social elements should be taken. Those elements who help in maintaining peace and harmony should be encouraged. Audio Video recording of the morcha should be done. Police Head Quarters should ensure adequate supply of equipment's, like Lathi, Helmets, etc. to police men deployed for morcha bandobast. If any law-and-order situation arises, offences should be registered immediately and arrest should be made. Intelligence machinery should be activated to collect advance information about morcha, agitation and efforts should be made to pre-empt any communal incidents."*

### **Action taken against hate speakers and offenders**

Sir, it is also important to note that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 940/2022, ***Shaheen Abdulla vs. Union of India & Ors.***, mandated the police authorities in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UT of NCT of Delhi to take suo moto action against those indulging in hate speeches as provided under the Indian Penal Code. Moreover, the state authorities have also been asked to issue directions to their subordinates in this regard that without looking at the religion of the accused, action has to be taken. In its order, the Supreme Court bench comprising Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna had said the following:

*"Respondents (states) shall ensure that immediately, as and when any speech or any action takes place which attracts offences such as Section 153A, 153B, 295A and 506 of IPC etc, without any complaint being filed suo moto action be*

*taken to register cases and proceed against the offenders in accordance with law. Respondents will issue directions to the subordinates so that appropriate action can be taken at the earliest. We further make it clear that such action be taken irrespective of the religion of the maker of the speech, so that the secular character of Bharat as envisaged by the Preamble is preserved."*

The apex court has, thus, again outlined already codified statutory duties of a police officer which makes it mandatory for them to take action under section 151 of CrPC in case there is apprehension of hate speech. Sir, given the well-orchestrated and numerous instances of hate speech and actual hate crimes being committed, the minority community in various parts of India already feels insecure and threatened. Furthermore, this was spoken at a public event and this speech has reached not only the audience at the event but also all those who may have seen these videos on their mobile phones, by the medium of social media. How large and wide the reach of social media can be, we are sure you must be aware. The consequences of such an inflammatory speech could have been worse.

### **Laws violated by the Hate Speech:**

Under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS)

#### **Section 196 – Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.**

- In the speech delivered, the speaker targets a specific religious minority by labeling their places of worship (Dargahs/*Mazars*) as "Forest *Jihad*" and "tombs of corpses." By asserting that wherever there is open land, there are "graves," the speaker fosters a narrative of land encroachment based on religion, directly violating Section 196.
- The speaker promotes division by categorising a specific community as "Abduls" who "don't belong to their own sisters" and "won't belong to ours." This creates an atmosphere of deep-seated mistrust and hostility between the two religious groups.

#### **Section 197 (1) – Imputations against allegiance to the Constitution.**

*Whoever, by words either spoken or written... makes or publishes any imputation that any class of persons cannot... bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India...*

- The speaker imputes that certain educational institutions (Madrasas) are breeding grounds where "only terrorists" and "extremists" are produced. This suggests that a specific class of citizens is being trained to act against the State, thereby weakening their standing as citizens who bear allegiance to the Constitution.
- The speech attacks the pluralistic nature of the nation by demanding a preference for "Hindutvawadi organisations" over secular activities, portraying the minority community as a threat to "religion and culture," which contradicts the secular tenets of the Constitution.

#### **Section 299 – Malicious act to insult a religion or religious beliefs.**

- The speaker maliciously insults the Islamic faith by mocking religious sites ("tombs of corpses" that "don't even have a face") and contrasting them negatively against "33 crore gods." This direct disparagement of religious practices and sacred spaces fulfills the criteria of Section 299.

- The rhetoric regarding "Love *Jihad*" and "Land *Jihad*" is designed to vilify and insult the minority community's identity, spreading intimidation and encouraging negative interactions based on religious belonging.

### **Section 302 – Uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings of any person.**

- The use of derogatory terms for religious teachers ("Mulla-Maulvis") and the claim that they teach "how to make bombs" is a deliberate attempt to wound the religious feelings of the Muslim community and portray their faith as synonymous with violence.

### **Section 352 – Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace.**

- The speech is designed to provoke communal unrest by calling for the arming of women ("every Hindu woman just needs to be given a weapon"). By claiming "we are the ones who made *Jihadis* dance on the battlefield at the tip of the sword," the speaker incites physical aggression and provokes a breach of public peace.
- The explicit warning that if a girl does not stay within the religion, "she will be seen in a Hijab" acts as an intentional insult and provocation intended to stir up fear and reactive violence.

### **Section 353 – False information/Statements conducing to public mischief.**

- The speaker circulates false information and alarming rumors regarding "Forest *Jihad*" and "Land *Jihad*" without factual basis. These narratives are spread with the intent to cause "fear or alarm to the public" and to incite one community to commit offences against another.
- The claim that Madrasas teach "how to trap girls" and "how to make bombs" is a false report intended to incite the public and disturb communal tranquillity, violating the specific provisions of Section 353.

The speech delivered in Junnar, Pune, on April 19, 2026, constitutes a clear violation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Through the use of inflammatory rhetoric, false narratives regarding alleged theory of "*Jihad*," and the call for the illegal taking up of weapons, the speaker deliberately attempts to promote enmity and challenges the social and legal fabric of the community.

### **Judicial precedents against Hate Speech:**

In *Firoz Iqbal Khan vs Union of India [W. P (Civ.) No. 956 of 2020]*, the Supreme Court had held, "the edifice of a democratic society committed to the rule of law under a regime of constitutional rights, values and duties is founded on the co-existence of communities. India is a melting pot of civilisations, cultures, religions and languages. Any attempt to vilify a religious community must be viewed with grave disfavour by this Court as the custodian of constitutional values." (Para 11).

In *Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India, (Ref: AIR 2014 SC 1591)*, the Supreme Court has unambiguously stated that "*hate speech is an effort to marginalise individuals based on their membership to a group, that can have a social impact. Moreover, the Court stated that hate speech lays the groundwork for broad attacks on the vulnerable that can range from discrimination, to ostracism, deportation, violence, and even to genocide. Therefore, the aforementioned news items are tantamount to the perpetration of genocide, and must be considered to be in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.*" (Para 7).

On April 28, 2023, the division bench of Justice KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna in *Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v. Union of India [W.P. (C) No. 943 of 2021]*, extended its order and directed all States/UTs to register Suo moto FIR against Hate Speech irrespective of religion. The court added that when any speech or any action takes place which attracts offences such as Section 153A, 153B and 295A and 505 of the IPC etc., suo moto action will be taken to register cases even if no complaint is forthcoming and proceed against the offenders in accordance with law.

In view of the above, we urge you to take cognizance of the speeches delivered by Harshu Thakur, as enclosed herewith, and register a case against the perpetrator, Harshu Thakur, as well as the organisers of the events, under the relevant sections for cognizable offences. We also wish for you to inform us whether the said events were videotaped by the police officials, as per the orders of the Supreme Court. Additionally, we request that the Junnar Police to keep us informed of developments and actions taken in this case, based on the applicable sections, as this would go a long way in rebuilding faith and confidence in the rule of law in general, and the police-citizen relationship in particular.

Sir, do note that we are sending this complaint, by email and registered post, on which we urge you to register an FIR if one has not been filed yet.

In anticipation,

**Yours sincerely,**

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary

**Annexures:**

Annexure A - Video of event dated April 19, 2026 downloaded by CJP