

Evangelical
Fellowship of India



Religious Liberty
Commission

HATE AND TARGETED VIOLENCE AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN INDIA YEARLY REPORT 2021

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF
THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF INDIA



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We would also like to thank the Christian Legal Association, Persecution Relief and Alliance Defending Freedom India.



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THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF INDIA

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"Why should a person above 18 years not choose his religion?... every person is the final judge of their own choice of religion... the fundamental right under Article 25 of the Constitution allows freely profess, practice, and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality, and health. There is a reason why the word "propagate" is there in the Constitution."

Hon'ble Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2021

A Nightmare 2021 – Year of Targeted Hate, Violence, Coercion, and Fear Christmas day violence in 2021 most vicious since Gujarat 1998 and Kandhamal 2007

Soon after midnight on 25 December in the old military town of Ambala Cantonment in Haryana, two miscreants entered the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, a landmark first built in 1848 and rebuilt in 1905. They shattered a statue of Jesus Christ at the entrance gate, throwing the head on the lawns, and damaged the lights they could reach. In a final act of hate and contempt, they urinated at the doors of the historic building that has stood through wars and the partition of India.

This terrible act of vandalism and desecration was one of sixteen acts of violence against the Christian church and community in India on Christmas day. By the time the year 2021 ended six days later, the Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India had recorded 505 individual incidents of violence including three murders, across India. Some other agencies that document violence totaled a larger figure.

No denomination whether organized or a lonely independent worshipping family or neighborhood group, none has been spared targeted violence and intense, chilling hate, the worst seen since the general election campaign of 2014. The year 2021 saw calls for genocide and threats of mass violence made from public platforms, and important political and religious figures on the stage.

Uttar Pradesh, which was to go to the polls to elect a legislative assembly, topped the 2021 list with a record 129 cases, with Chhattisgarh at 74, neighboring Madhya Pradesh with 66 and Karnataka in South India at 48. West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, now a Union Territory, documented one case each. The North-eastern states as well as Kerala and Goa on the west coast did not record any case. All of them have sizable populations of Christians.

This was perhaps the third most violent Christmas the community has faced in India. On Christmas eve of 1998, 36 rural log churches were burnt and destroyed in the Dangs forested district of the state of Gujarat. The incidents were dubbed a "laboratory for right wing religious and nationalist fanatics." On Christmas eve of 2007, another forest district, this time Kandhamal in the state of Orissa [now called Odisha] became the laboratory. Villages houses, small prayer halls, large churches, and institutions were burnt, and people forced to flee for their lives into the forest. The violence was repeated a few months later. More than 100 were killed, many women, including a Catholic Nun raped, and close to 400 Churches and institutions destroyed. The Orissa government had identified the attackers as belonging to an arm of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh which had launched a massive hate campaign targeting the Christian community.

An analysis of the aggregated data shows that Christians were most vulnerable to attacks in the second half of the year, particularly in the months from August to December, the Christmas season. While October topped the list with 74 incidents followed by December with 64 incidents, August and September saw 52 and 50 cases respectively. The hot summer months of May and June were the most pacific (13 and 26 cases).

While three persons were murdered, in terms of other crimes enunciated in the Indian Penal Code, Coercion, Intimidation, Threats of violence and harassment of Christians was the most "common" crime with 137 cases, with arrest by police on fabricated cases close behind sat 81 cases. Of these, 17 persons were jailed by the police. Physical violence took place in 84 cases, while in 7 cases attacks on women were seen. Worship in churches of various sizes was interrupted or forced to stop in 65 incidents and 5 churches were destroyed. Critically for the communities in tribal and

other rural areas, there were recorded 36 cases of social boycott and ostracization, and 7 cases of forced conversion to Hinduism.

The real figures may be much more - even without the additional hardship and difficulties faced in a period when India was raged by the second wave of Covid. The nation was trying to cope with unprecedented disaster -- which saw patients gasping for oxygen, which was in short supply in hospitals, others dying on the way to hospital, and bodies being thrown into the Ganges and other rivers as cremation grounds were overwhelmed by the death count. It had little time to investigate violence on a small minority community. Covid did not prevent the perpetrators of such crimes.

Even in normal times, it is difficult to document all incidents of persecution. Much of the crime takes place away from the big stages, often in large villages and tribal areas deep in forests. In many cases, victims are too scared to report persecution. They face coercion and threats from the local vigilante and political groups, and their thugs and musclemen, who are often armed with guns and swords. When the Christian who has been beaten up, assaulted, or threatened that he or she would be killed if they approached the police, do go to a police station to file a complaint, they often find that the police is hesitant to record the crime or in some instances, are complicit.

Another avenue for targeted hate was added with the "surveys" of Christian places of worship in the state of Karnataka which preceded the passing of an anti-conversion law by the legislature. Karnataka will be the tenth state to have such a law that all but criminalizes interfaith marriages and exposes believers in Christ to police and social harassment even before they convert or are baptized. Long jail terms and heavy fines are listed for violations, including "fraud" or "force" if used by the pastor. Wherever the Anti-Conversion law, ironically officially called Freedom of Religion Act, was passed, it became a justification for the persecution of the minorities and other marginalized identities. The attacks on the minorities grew sharply in recent years since this law was tweaked and used as a weapon targeting the dignity of Christians and Muslims.

The Indian constitution provides six broader fundamental rights. Everyone is equal and has equal rights and freedom without discrimination before the law (Art 14-18) & (Art 19-22). The State provides freedom of conscience and right to profess, practice and propagate religion (Art 25-28) as well as cultural & educational rights for the religious minorities (Art 29-30). It is right to equality, freedom, and non-discrimination for every citizen.

The anti-conversion laws violate international covenants and instruments where India is a signatory. Articles 1, 18 & 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Articles 18 & 19 of International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Articles 2 & 3 of UN Declaration on Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief spell this out clearly and categorically

Three murder cases

1. On 18 May in Thep village, Kotra Tehsil, Udaipur district, Rajasthan, angry relatives of Pastor Ramesh Bumbariya and his father, Bhima Bumbariya, entered their home and attacked them guns, axes, swords and wooden clubs. They fired thrice, and then struck Bhima with an axe, killing him on the spot. The pastor was also grievously injured. The relatives were reportedly angry that the Bumbariya family was following Christ. The police were investigating as per last reports.
2. On 20 May in Loisingha village, Balangir district, Odisha, a group of religious extremists barged into Pastor Alok Rajhans' house and severely beat the pastor, resulting in his death. The pastor's wife, who tried to save her husband, was also injured. The pastor was affiliated with the ALTC ministry.
3. On 30 June at Sangoi village in Karnal District, Haryana, Sonu Kashyap, a criminal released from jail on bail used a roof truss to attack and kill pastor Vinod Kumar, who was trying going to visit an ailing person. The pastor had received a call from Kashyap's brother to visit a sick villager. As the pastor was about to start his motorbike, Kashyap ambushed him. Senior Pastor Sompal Kalre, who had mentored Pastor Vinod Kumar, 25 years ago, said that neighbours found

Kashyap standing with the wooden beam in his hand as Pastor Kumar lay dead. The police were notified immediately. The Station Head Officer of Sadar police station initially tried to pass it off as a crime because of a personal animosity, but then recorded it as a murder when the villagers intervened.

The Peculiar case of the detaining of Nuns in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

On 19 March evening in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, four nuns from the Delhi Province of the Sacred Heart Society (SH) were arrested while on a train on their way to Odisha from Delhi. As the train stopped at 6.30 pm at Jhansi railway station, a group of religious extremists, who were returning from a pilgrimage, accosted the nuns and accused them of religious conversions. Subsequently, the police arrived but instead of stopping the mob, they arrested the women without listening to what they had to say. Around 150 religious radicals marched with the police in procession, raising slogans, as they took the women to the police station. The terrified nuns were released at 11.30 pm after the intervention of national advocacy groups who had been alerted by their convent.

And an arrest in a fabricated case

On 5 September in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, a Christian priest, Harish Sahu, was falsely accused of carrying out religious conversion by the right-wing extremists. The pastor was called for questioning at the Purani Basti police station. Chhattisgarh Christian Forum general secretary Ankush Bariyekar accompanied him. Several right-wing activists also reached the police station. As the police looked on, they manhandled Sahu, accusing him of religious conversion. Pastor Bariyekar and another Christian, Prakash Masih, were also beaten up in the police station. The mob also manhandled Station House Officer Yadumani Sidar as he tried to keep them from beating the Christians. Police kept the three pastors at the police station until evening and filed a First Information Report (FIR No. 234/21) against 10 extremists. Two of the accused were arrested on September 6 and one on September 7. A report in the Hindustan Times newspaper said the two people arrested on September 6 belonged to the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In Madhya Pradesh's Rangwasa village near Indore city, a radical mob barged into a Christian's home where Pastor Manu Damor was leading five families in Christian prayers. The pastor called the police for protection when the irate mob began beating down the door and tore through the roof of the house. Betma police detained the pastor and his family at the police station assuring them that they would be allowed to go home after their first night of detention. However, they were later charged under sections 3 and 5 of the Madhya Pradesh Anti-Conversion Law upon pressure. In a court hearing on April 5, the couple handed their still-nursing 18-month-old over to the other Christian family after police warned them of widespread COVID-19 in the jail. The mother remained in Indore District jail until her release on bail on April 12. Meanwhile, Pastor Damor remained in Depalpur jail.

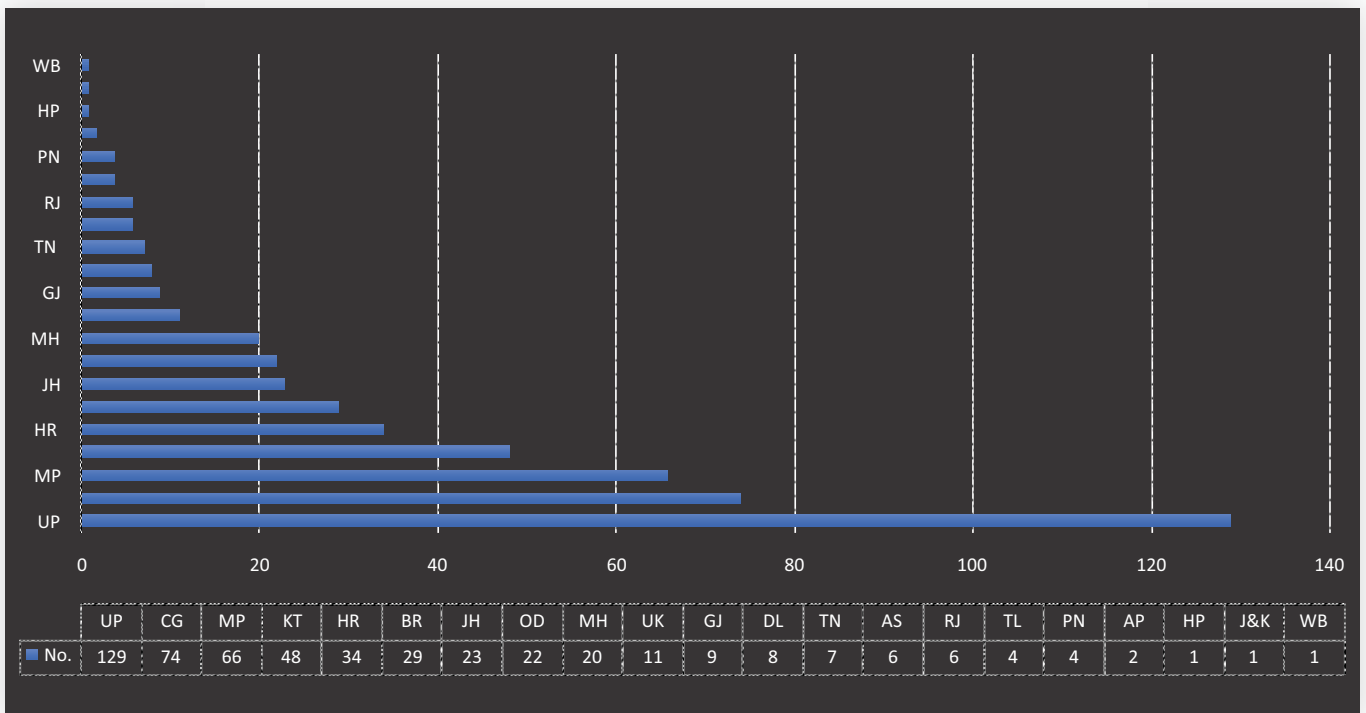
For further information, please write to mail@efirc.org

Released by:
Rev. Vijayesh Lal
National Director – EFIRLC
General Secretary – EFI

STATISTICS

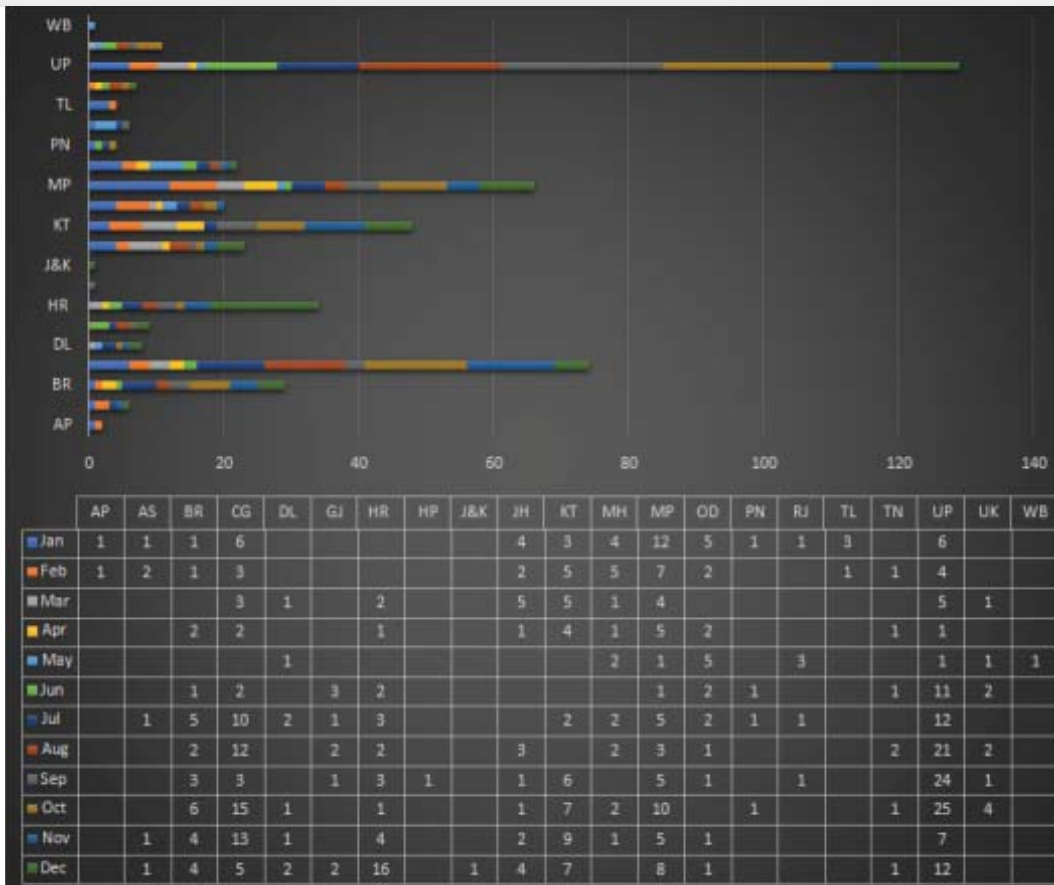
STATE-WISE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

State	No.
UP	129
CG	74
MP	66
KT	48
HR	34
BR	29
JH	23
OD	22
MH	20
UK	11
GJ	9
DL	8
TN	7
AS	6
RJ	6
TL	4
PN	4
AP	2
HP	1
J&K	1
WB	1
Grand Total	505



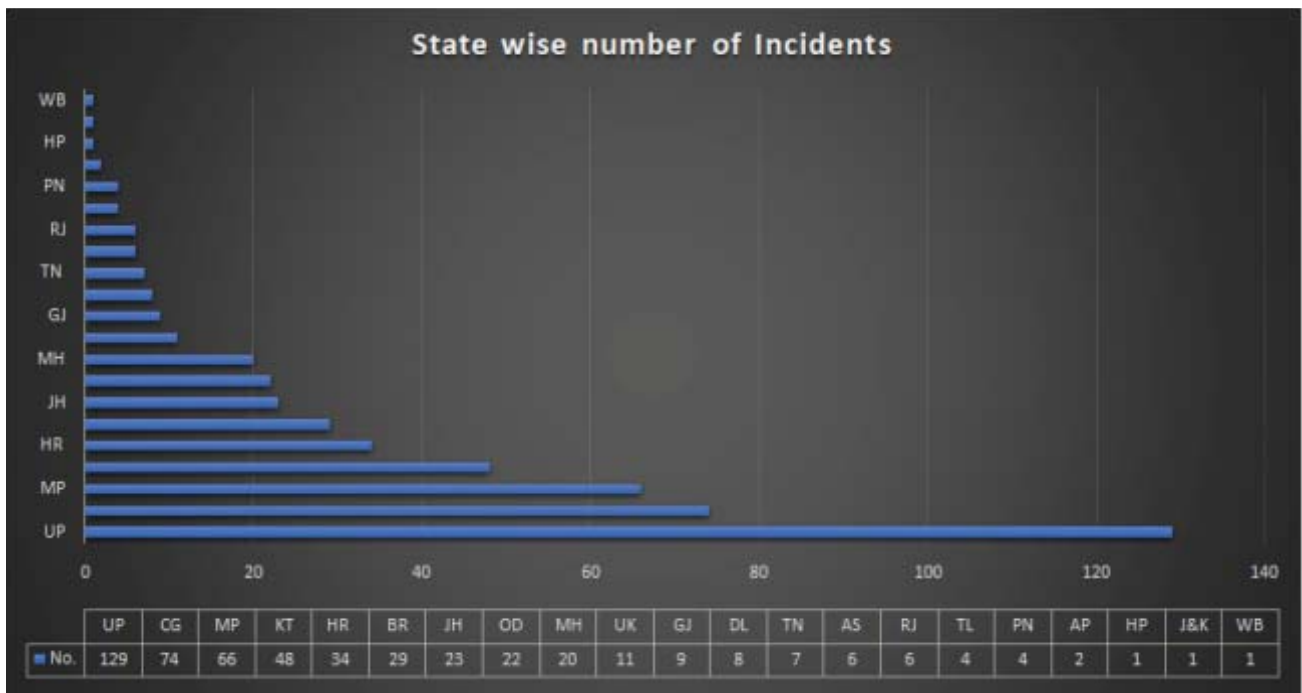
MONTH OF INCIDENTS ACROSS MONTHS

State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
AP	1	1										
AS	1	2					1				1	1
BR	1	1		2		1	5	2	3	6	4	4
CG	6	3	3	2		2	10	12	3	15	13	5
DL			1		1		2			1	1	2
GJ						3	1	2	1			2
HR			2	1		2	3	2	3	1	4	16
HP									1			
J&K												1
JH	4	2	5	1				3	1	1	2	4
KT	3	5	5	4			2		6	7	9	7
MH	4	5	1	1	2		2	2		2	1	
MP	12	7	4	5	1	1	5	3	5	10	5	8
OD	5	2		2	5	2	2	1	1		1	1
PN	1					1	1			1		
RJ	1				3		1		1			
TL	3	1										
TN		1		1		1		2		1		1
UP	6	4	5	1	1	11	12	21	24	25	7	12
UK			1		1	2		2	1	4		
WB					1							
Grand Total	48	34	27	20	15	26	47	52	50	74	48	64



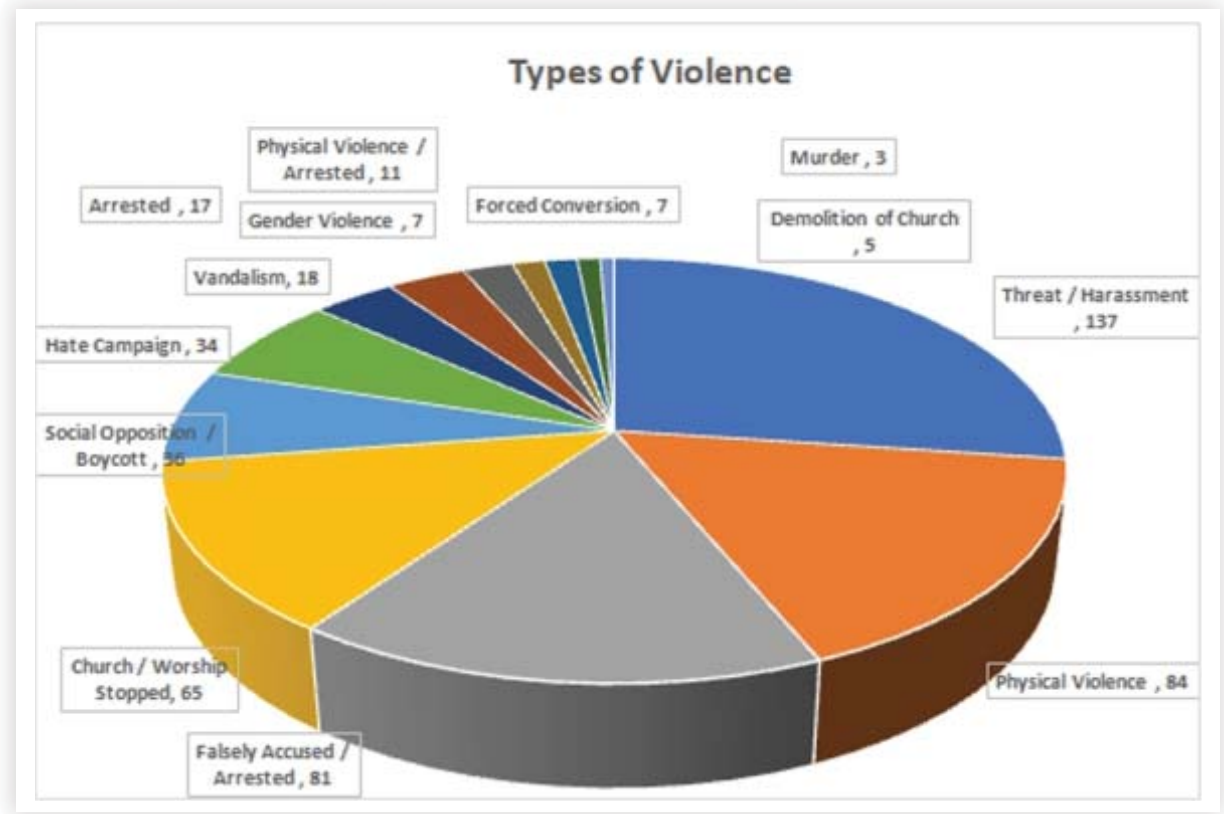
MONTHLY TREND OF INCIDENTS

State	No.
UP	129
CG	74
MP	66
KT	48
HR	34
BR	29
JH	23
OD	22
MH	20
UK	11
GJ	9
DL	8
TN	7
AS	6
RJ	6
TL	4
PN	4
AP	2
HP	1
J&K	1
WB	1
Grand Total	505



TYPES OF VIOLENCE

Type of violence	No. of Incidents
Threat / Harassment	137
Physical Violence	84
Falsely Accused / Arrested	81
Church / Worship Stopped	65
Social Opposition / Boycott	36
Hate Campaign	34
Vandalism	18
Arrested	17
Physical Violence / Arrested	11
Gender Violence	7
Forced Conversion	7
Demolition of Church	5
Murder	3
Grand Total	505



RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

- a. Enact a comprehensive national legislation against targeted and communal violence.
- b. Advise the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha to repeal the unconstitutional Freedom of Religion laws that actually limit religious freedom and are being misused by agenda driven groups to harass and create trouble for the religious minorities. The new laws in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are especially troublesome as they infringe on personal freedoms even more than the laws in other states.
- c. Enforce rule of law and arrest members of groups promoting sectarian hate, violence and involving in pre-orchestrated programs of levelling false accusations of conversions upon the Christian priests and missionaries in order to feed their political agenda.
- d. Ensure stringent action under criminal law against all those who channel hate speech with the intention of inciting violence and hatred against the Christian community and other minority groups.
- e. Advise the state governments, especially Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, to deal with right wing organizations operating in these states whose primary agenda is to create an atmosphere of fear among the Christian community and other religious minorities.
- f. Prosecute police officials who fail in their constitutionally mandated duty to enforce the law of the land, by being complicit in attacks against religious minorities, and by shielding the attackers or otherwise scuttling due process of law.
- g. Conduct sensitization programs for the police officials regarding laws on religious freedom as envisaged in the Indian Constitution and on laws related to human rights.
- h. Amend paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 to include Christians and Muslims.
- i. Ensure that an active Commission for Human Rights and Commission for minorities is operational in every state, and that members of each commission are appointed by transparent and non-partisan procedures.
- j. Prevent and pursue through the judicial process, all violent acts against religious and tribal minorities and Dalits.

ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

The Religious Liberty Commission (RLC) is an initiative of Evangelical Fellowship of India and is established in accordance with biblical principles to facilitate reconciliation, to promote religious liberty and fundamental freedoms for all, and to seek justice for those who are abused and oppressed. The RLC promotes through its activities a suitable response to violations of religious freedom in the complex context of India while speaking for the marginalized.

It was formed in 1998 and is envisioned as a platform for all like-minded Christian groups, clergy and activists working on issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief and other fundamental freedoms. The RLC played a pivotal role in the formation of the Christian Legal Association which is a separate body today consisting of lawyers from across the nation.

Helping and empowering victims of persecution through practical and legal means is something that the RLC has done since its inception and continues to do so. It has been documenting incidents of hate and targeted violence on the Christian community since 1998 onwards and has since 2009, released an annual list of incidents. The RLC continues to engage in advocacy to raise awareness on issues connected with religious liberty and other fundamental freedoms.

Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), founded in 1951, is the national alliance of evangelical Christians. Its membership includes over 54 protestant denominations and related congregations (over 65,000 Churches), over 200 Church related mission agencies and organizations and thousands of individual members. As a central network of evangelicals and a service organization, it represents the Evangelical voice and builds capacity to promote participation in nation building.

EFI is a charter member of the World Evangelical Alliance. The WEA is a global organization of evangelical Christian churches, serving more than 600 million evangelicals, founded in 1846. WEA has a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



INCIDENTS PHOTOGRAPHS



DETAILS OF INCIDENTS STATE WISE

ANDHRA PRADESH

On 17 January in YSR Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, a saffron flag was planted on a church that has been shut down for the past 10 months. The incident has left the local Christian community fearful that increased persecution is on the horizon. The incident took place in Chittimitti Chintala village. The church's pastor, Pastor James Prasad, claimed this is the latest sign of anti-minority movement in the area as radicals attempt to make it a "Christian-free" village.

On 4 February in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, Bharatiya Janata Party's national secretary and Andhra Pradesh co-in-charge, Sunil Deodhar, accused Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy of wanting everyone to become a Christian, and assured that an anti-conversion law would be brought in if Jana Sena-BJP government comes to power in the state. Speaking to a mainstream media, the BJP leader who has been camping in Andhra Pradesh for the past few months for the Tirupati Lok Sabha bypolls, also remarked that those Hindus who have converted to Christianity cannot continue to take the benefits of reservation. Hindus who have converted to Christianity can't be Scheduled Caste (SC). Deodhar further remarked, "the church has got political interest and demanded that video footage of those who visit churches regularly should be released. The Church should also make public its attendance register."

ASSAM

On 20 January in 20 January in Tezpur city, Assam, the religious extremists targeted the members of the Harijan community, but practice Christianity and have government jobs as cleaners and sweepers in the city. The extremists threatened them to re-convert to their previous faith or else they would have to lose their job as cleaners since they belong to the Scheduled Caste category and now are Christians.

On 9 February in Gharmura, Hailakandi district, Assam, unidentified miscreants stormed into a

Presbyterian Mission School compound and beat up the headmaster, Mr H. Vanlaldika, and his family members, with sticks and iron rods, inflicting grievous injuries on them. Mizoram Kohhran Hruaitute Committee (MKHC), a conglomerate of leaders of major churches in Mizoram, vehemently condemned the attack on a religious place. The vandals torched houses, vandalized furniture and vehicles. The family members, two of whom are very young girls, were admitted to a hospital in Aizawl. Most news agencies reported that the violence was in relation to the ongoing border dispute between Assam and Mizoram.

On 14 February in Harijan Colony, Tezpur city, Assam, Manjit Masrakhia, a church youth leader, and around 30 Christians were called to a meeting organized by a religious radical group in partnership with the Harijan Yuvak Sangha. The community leaders reprimanded the Christians for their religious beliefs and demanded that they stop their prayer services in the colony. When the Christians denied their demands, they were threatened with a social boycott.

On 29 Jul in Dibrugarh, Assam, missionary Ranjan Chutia and other Christians were falsely accused by religious extremists of forcing religious conversions. As a result of a First Information Report filed with the police, an investigation is currently underway.

On 21 November in Silchar, Cachar, Assam, following complaints from a right-wing group, two Christian women were detained and released by police. They were accused of attempting to convert to Christianity. The two were detained at Tarapur police station after a mob surrounded them for playing Bible messages on an amplifier and handing out leaflets with Christian literature.

On 25 December in Silchar, Cachar, Assam, a Christmas celebration was disrupted, when men claiming to be members of a right-wing group forced their way into a church and demanded it to be closed because Hindus could and should not attend the Christmas celebrations. The attackers said they had no problem with Christians celebrating Christmas, but they refused to let Hindus. According to a local Police officer, no complaint has been filed so far. Police officers describe the incident as a small commotion that does not require a suo moto case.

BIHAR

On 17 January in Gopalganj district, Bihar, religious extremists along with police personnel disrupted a prayer meeting led by Pastor Kamlesh Kumar. The pastor is affiliated with the Assembly Church of Jesus Christ. They verbally abused the Christians gathered at the meeting and warned them to stop converting others to Christianity. During the ordeal, the pastor hid himself in another room. They kept looking for the pastor. Consequently, the mob left the place. The pastor has been leading Christian prayers at a rented hall in the locality for the past eight years, and around 80 to 100 Christians gather every Sunday.

On 13 February under Daniyawan police station, Patna district, Bihar, a Christian missionary was caught by religious extremists and later handed over to Daniyawan police. The incident occurred near the Daniyawan High School where the missionary was distributing Christian literature on the street. The extremists - RadheShyam, P.R. Suman and Kunwar Vijay Paswan - accused the missionary of involving in the religious conversion of poor and marginalized people. SHO Munna Kumar made the missionary sign a bond assuring that he will not involve in religious conversion activities in the future.

On the morning of 22 April in Riga block, Sitamarhi district, Bihar, a group of religious fanatics attacked Pastor Ramniwar Kumar and his wife Pinkie while they were in the house of Nagender, a church member. Pastor Kumar serves as the minister of the Penuel Christian Church located in Riga. The assailants attacked with sticks and iron rods which left the couple with severe injuries on the head. The pastor informed our sources that he and his family have been facing regular opposition for the past two years. The fanatics had been warning him to stop converting people - an allegation the pastor vehemently denied - and leave the city, or be killed. After the attack, Kumar approached local police with a complaint but no case was registered against the assailants.

On 25 April in Kharasan village, Sitamarhi district, Bihar, a Christian family - Manoj Ram, his wife Neetu Kumari, and their kids - were brutally assaulted. The assault was so violent that Neetu Kumari was bitten by one of the men. Manoj informed our sources that there has been constant opposition by the villagers

due to their Christian faith. On 26 April the incident was reported to the police but the complaint was not registered. However, the police took Manoj and his family to a local hospital for treatment. Two days later, with the help of a Christian advocacy group, a written complaint was sent to the Superintendent of Police and the Riga police station.

On 11 June in the Gaya district of Bihar, Pastor RamsevakDas' church was attacked by local upper-caste religious extremists, and he was dragged from his house and beaten up in the village council. The pastor's wife and church members were verbally abused, and he was threatened that he would be expelled and thrown out of the village. For reasons of security, the pastor moved his family out of the village the very next day to a place 8 km away from his village.

On 17 July in Bhelatand, Gaya, Bihar, religious extremist groups forcefully carried out forceful Ghar-Wapasi (reconversion to an earlier faith). According to several reports, the campaign will last at least two months.

On 26 July in Akbarpur, Nawada, Bihar, there was an opposition to the construction of the GEMS House of Prayer by right-wing extremists. It is reported that some locals were also under the influence of right-wing ideology, opposed and protested the construction of the church.

On 27 July in Fatehpur, Gaya, Bihar, two people influenced by right-wingers came to a church and threatened the Christian preacher Dhiraj that they would kill him if he did not vacate and leave and that they would demolish the church.

On 28 July in Narayanpur, Nawada, Bihar, right-wing activists and locals, influenced by the right-wing group, opposed and stopped the prayer hall construction of the GEMS ministry. But, after Zonal Leader R.P. Timothy along with the missionaries met with the opposers, the work has resumed.

On 29 July in Fatehpur, Gaya, Bihar, in the afternoon, right-wingers came to Christian preacher Dhiraj. As he was not at home, they inquired where he was and left. They arrived again around 7 pm with nearly 30 people. When Ravita, Dhiraj's wife, did not open the door, they climbed the church and parsonage building and shouted abusive words and threatened with sticks and guns. She began shouting and calling

for help, and the nearby villagers came to her aid. The mob fled when they saw the villagers.

On 9 August in Warsliganj, Nawada, Bihar, an under-construction prayer hall of the GEMS House of Prayer was broken and vandalized by unknown miscreants. The prayer hall was being constructed at Warsliganj for a few months and the construction had come up to the door level. The under-construction church building was broken and damaged in the night on the above-mentioned date. The miscreants have also damaged the motor pump installed at the prayer hall. GEMS ministry's zonal leader, Dayanand Singh, and other missionaries planned a meeting with the district authorities.

On 27 August in Jhanjharpur Nagar Panchayat, Madhubani, Bihar, Rajesh Kumar Gupta and his wife were falsely accused their own family members of forcing conversion on them and reported the same to a right-wing organization and the police as well. The organization called for a meeting to be held quickly. The police interrogated each member of the accused family in turn. According to the police investigation, it came to light that the eldest brother of the family Rajesh Kumar Gupta and his wife Sunita Devi voluntarily adopted Christianity in the year 2013. Their mother has also been following Christianity since 2016. Police found all the allegations false and baseless.

On 16 September in Jehanbad, Bihar, local evangelists Dinesh Manjhi and his wife Usha Devi were attacked while they were praying. Radicals barged into their home and physically assaulted them. It is reported that in the past they have also been threatened for practicing their faith. The injured couple were taken to a local government hospital for treatment. The next morning, they went to the local police station and submitted their application. But no receiving was provided by the police for the complaint.

On 17 September in Triveniganj, Supaul, Bihar, Ravi Kumar, a part-time Christian evangelist, visited a house in the neighbourhood for a birthday party. He also bought a birthday present as he went over there. Local people there physically assaulted him and alleged that he was converting people to Christianity. Then, he was handed over to Triveniganj Police station with the same accusation.

On 28 September in Simri village, Buxar, Bihar, Pastor Raju Masih and his 3 children were

physically assaulted as well as threatened to stop the village church and conduct prayer meetings by the religious extremists.

On 8 October in Sitamarhi, Bihar, Pastor Karthik Prasad Verma was paid a visit by a man who identified himself as an officer from the local intelligence unit. The officer informed that there is a complaint filed against the pastor alleging that he engages in religious conversion work through allurements. The complaint also alleges that the pastor consumes beef.

On 10 October in Dobhi, Gaya, Bihar, Pastor Sudama Prasad, associated with the GEMS ministry, was attacked and his prayer meeting was disrupted. 30 to 35 extremists broke into the ongoing prayer meetings and attacked pastor Sudama, his 22-year-old son, and his wife. Since the pastor resides in rented accommodation, he has been asked to vacate the property by next Monday.

On 10 October in Garhani, Bhojpur, Bihar, as the Sunday Service began in Gospel Echoing Missionary Society (GEMS) Church at 9:00 am, a group of extremists barged into the ongoing prayer. In addition to disturbing the worship service, they threatened the gathered Christians as well as missionaries with death if they continued to pray here. The missionary here is evangelist Jyoti Prakash. Following the incident, the GEMS Leaders met with the police at the church.

On 15th October in Kailashnagar, West Champaran, Bihar, a Gharwapsi (reconversion to former faith) ceremony was forcefully conducted on a Christian, named Gulabi Devi. When she refused to participate, the extremist elements held both her hands and legs and forcefully shoved the prasada (food element offered to a community deity) into her mouth. Gulabi Devi cried and kept on saying she will rather die, but will not deny Jesus Christ.

On 19 October in Kailashnagar in West Champaran, Bihar, right wing elements reportedly instigated the villagers against Christians. They targeted Kodhai and Mahendar who lead the Christian prayers through house fellowships. The Christians have reportedly been facing a lot of struggle and mental torture for the last few months prior to this incident. Several times they had been called before the Panchayat and were humiliated and threatened.

On 31 October in Aurangabad, Bihar, a group of extremists disrupted the Sunday church service. Missionary Pankaj and believers were threatened not to conduct prayers. As a result of this opposition, the owner of the building has denied the church meeting for the prayer meeting in his building.

On 5 November in Keolla village, Supaul, Bihar, Pastor George Papachan and his wife Rishu hailing from Kerala were taken into police custody at Bhimpur. They were falsely accused of religious conversion by religious extremists. The allegation levelled was the pastor and his wife were distributing Bibles to the people and alluring people to become Christians.

On 7 November in Shahpur village, Saharsa, Bihar, a mob led by religious extremists barged inside a home church, disrupted prayers, snatched Pastor Krishnanand Yadav's phone and threatened the peaceful congregation to disperse. Religious extremists carried guns and threatened Christians to stop prayer services, and blocked the roads preventing Christians from moving to safety.

On 7 November in Warsliganj, Nawada, Bihar, at midnight, a group of fanatics carrying guns attacked a Christian preacher Dinesh and three Christians at the construction site. Dinesh was severely injured. This same under-construction church building was also damaged and broken on the night of 9 August 2021.

On 16 November in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, Pastor Sonelal was in police custody at Karja police station. In response, Human rights defenders contacted the station in charge and sought information as to why the pastor was in police custody. A short while later, Pastor Sonelal was released.

On 5 December in Kasraini, Darbhanga, Bihar, Christians were gathered for the Christmas service at the church. Over 80 right-wingers disrupted the gathering, manhandled Christians, questioned the missionary, and forced Christians not to celebrate Christmas but to celebrate Tulsi puja. When the police arrived, the right-wingers ran off. The Station House Officer made sure that all the Christians and the missionary Chandra Gupta were safe and gave police protection for a peaceful Christmas service to be conducted.

On 19 December in Barahiya, Lakhisarai, Bihar, Pastor Deepak Chaudhary and some of his church members were assaulted by religious extremists because they professed and practised their Christian faith. A group of four extremists entered the venue where the pastor and other Christians were doing their routine prayers. In addition to verbally abusing Christians, they forced them to raise Sri Ram slogans.

On 24 December in Bhojpur, Bihar, Christmas service preparations were going on at the GEMS House of Prayer. In the night, some unidentified people had climbed the church and had broken the cross.

On 26 December in Diwar village, Patna, Bihar, during a prayer meeting conducted by Sister Jyoti Chauhan, religious extremists raised the slogan, "Jai Shri Ram." while wearing saffron scarves around their necks. According to reports, police officials were also present with them, but no one was stopping them. Due to the lack of complete boundaries and poor window structures, extremists disrupted worship by making videos and sloganeering.

CHHATTISGARH

On 4 January in Sagripal village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh, villagers destroyed the ancestral home of Maniram Nag's family. The villagers had been pressuring the family to leave their Christian faith. When they did not oblige the assailants destroyed their house claiming that they would have to leave the village if they do not abandon their Christian beliefs.

On 7 January in Abhujamadh village, Narayanpur district, Chhattisgarh, two Christian families were threatened by village elders to either give up their beliefs or leave the village. AayatuMandavi, one of the victims, lives in the Naxalite dominated village and has been living under fear. Paswan, the Christian pastor, who ministers to these families, has been forbidden to enter the village.

On 7 January in Kora village, under Gadiras police station, Sukma district, Chhattisgarh, a Christian couple - Mr. Masa Kunjami and Mrs. Sunny Kunjami - were severally beaten on account of their Christian

beliefs. The incident occurred around 6 am when three persons - SodiJoga, Sodia Deva and Sodi Ganga, along with a few others - barged into the couple's home and attacked them. The couple was verbally assaulted and beaten with sticks. Sunny Kanjami was held by her hair and pulled outside their home by her blouse. Masa Kunjami too was dragged out of the house and was repeatedly attacked with murderous intent.

On 8 January in Sukma district, Chhattisgarh, religious extremists launched a major rally against Christians with slogans of "Christians should be chased away from India" echoing in the air. Local sources reported that the district administration seemed supportive of the hate campaign.

On 18 January in Bagbahar village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh, a Christian couple - Bal Singh and his wife Gudiya - were ostracized from the village. They had recently accepted the Christian faith. Thrown out of their home by their family, they resorted to help from Pastor Salim Hakku, who arranged a rented house for them to stay.

On 24 January at Pulgaon police station, Durg district, Chhattisgarh, local villagers provoked by religious radicals, affiliated with a major political party, surrounded the police station demanding the arrest of four Christian families residing in Peeparchhedi village. The enraged group accused the Christians of converting the locals. Upon heightening tension, the additional police force was summoned. Pastor Vikram Philip conducts prayers for the four Christian families.

On 8 February in Palamadugu village, Sukma, Chhattisgarh, KanniBarse, a childcare worker who recently converted to Christianity, applied to the district child development officer for a transfer to another childcare centre. This was because her life has been threatened as she has adopted Christianity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she invited a local pastor to bless the crop she had planted to feed her family. Barse's tribal animist relatives barred her from harvesting her crop and threatened to kill her if she returned to her village after learning of the pastor's blessing. When Barse sought help from the police station in Polampalli, an inspector told her that adopting a foreign faith was a grave mistake and that he "should book cases" against her.

On 18 February Kota Tehsil, Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh, five Christians – Durgawati, Vidyawati, Gulshan Kumar, Durgawati and Sandhya -

were coerced by their family members and other villagers during a village council meeting to reject their Christian beliefs. When they refused they were brutally beaten up. After which all five of them, out of fear of their relatives and villagers, left the village and hid in the nearby Navadih village in the house of a Christian family. The Christian families had been facing harassment for more than three weeks. Subsequently, Pastor ChensayLakda filed a complaint at the Kenda police post appealing for protection and help.

On 20 February in Lamker village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh, a village council met to sort out the concerns raised by the Christian families in the village. Pastor GupthaKhawasi told sources that the families had been frequently verbally assaulted and harassed by religious radicals on account of their Christian beliefs. Reportedly, the matter was eventually settled through mutual understanding and compromise.

On March 2 in Chhingur village, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, Lakhshu Nag, a tribal animist who had been ill for several years and had approached Pastor Dularam Kashyap of the Methodist Church for prayer, had passed away due to the same illness. The villagers refused to allow his body to be buried because he had gone to Pastor Kashyap for prayer when Christians brought his body back to the village. The villagers assaulted the Christians and denied Nag a burial place, and when Pastor Kashyap tried to intervene, he was beaten as well. Lakhshu Nag's mortal remains lay in the village from 2 March to 3 March, until the police escorted the Christians to take them to the village of Chaltipadar.

On the night of 8 March in Surguda village, Bade Kilepal block, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh, a mob of villagers physically assaulted and severely injured Pastor Samson Baghel, and a group of 30-35 Christians, while they were holding a prayer meeting. The assault caused serious injuries to many. The villagers burnt copies of the Bible and damaged a vehicle. Subsequently, an FIR (bearing number 0018) was registered against the assailants at the Kodenar police station.

On March 10 in Chhingur village, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, the followers of tribal deities forced and physically assaulted four Christian families to reconvert back to their ancestral religion by abandoning Christianity. Christian Raidhar Nag, one of the villagers who fled the village, said the ten Christian families were threatened with death if they refused to

participate in the reconversion ceremony.

On 7 April in Singanpur, Chattisgarh, a group of villagers forcefully tried to gain control of Vijay Sori's agricultural field. Villagers threatened him to leave the village since he had accepted Christianity. Though no physical violence was reported, local sources informed that Vijay Sori intends to report the matter to the head of the Village Council.

On 17 April in Marenga village, Lohandiguda block, Bastar, Chattisgarh, two Christian men - Puran and Nani - and a Christian woman, Boti, were beaten up by their family members owing to their Christian beliefs and ostracized from the village. When the local police arrived in the village, they were also threatened by the villagers, who claimed that they could not be arrested since they had not committed murder or any other major crime.

On 9 June in Dongam village, Jagdalpur block, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh, a religious militant organisation submitted a memorandum to the district collector pronouncing the denial of the land allotment to the Christian community in the village. Local sources reported that the organization had been inciting villagers against each other on communal lines, particularly against the Christians. Subsequently, they had also started opposing the land allotment done by the government to the Christian community at Dongam Village Council's Office.

On 19 June in Mutanpal village, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, villagers opposed the burial of a child whose family profess to be Christians. Mahadev, a Christian, was in the process of the burial of his child who had passed away when some villagers confronted him and opposed the burial on account of Mahadev's Christian beliefs.

On 4 Jul in Kota, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Firoj Bagh was attacked by religious extremists and was threatened with the closure of the church. Although the police appear to have assured the local Christians of their support, there is still fear among them.

On 5 July in village Telanga, Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh, a church was demolished by religious fundamentalists. Some administrative officials were also present at the site when the church was being demolished, but they reportedly didn't do anything to prevent it.

On 7 July in Gogaon, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, there was an attack on the church of Pastor Ramesh Manakpuri and slogans were written on the walls of the church by a group of right-wing people. The son of the pastor was mistreated.

On 7 July in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Ramesh's church was attacked by extremists. They took out a big rally and wrote slogans on the walls of the church as a protest against the ministry work carried out by the pastor.

On 9 July in Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh, a Christian family of Mrs Kumari Bai Tandon was attacked during a Christian prayer meeting. As per family and other Christians who were assembled at home, the attackers were religious radicals and wanted to disrupt the prayer meeting. They physically assaulted the Christians and damaged some of the vehicles belonging to the Christian guests of Mrs Tandon.

On 12 July in Sukma, Chhattisgarh, Police Superintendent directed all police stations in the district to keep a watch on the religious activities of missionaries and pastors. SP wrote that in the interior areas of the district, local tribals are being induced to convert by luring them and luring them to benefit from the Christian community.

On 13 July in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, Christians were falsely accused by a right-wing group of doing conversion work through deception and allurements. Using this as a pretext, the group has launched the GharWapsi campaign (re-conversion to their former religion) in order to basically target those Christians who have freely adopted Christianity.

On 18 July in Devbaloda, Bhilai Charoda, Durg, Chhattisgarh, three Christian women Ritu Sahu (Urala), Padma Mahanand and Sangeeta Bagh were carrying Christian literature when they were stopped by right wing activists who accused them of carrying out religious conversion. Later, the group that had stopped the women informed right-wing organizations and the police of GRP Charoda. When the women were interrogated, they firmly said that they were not involved in religious conversion.

On 25 Jul in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, religious extremists harassed the local Christians namely Purnima Sahu, Bina Sinha, and a few others, on

account of their faith and forcefully took away Christian literature from them. The extremists also burnt some copies of the Bible and used derogatory words against Christians hurting the sentiments of Christians.

On 27 July in Durg, Chhattisgarh, pastor Obed Das was accused of religious conversion by allurement by right-wing group's members in a memorandum to the Mohannagar police station. Pastor Obed Das clearly stated that all the allegations levelled against him are false and baseless. Rev. Pradeep Kumar Das, President of Pastors Fellowship, also said that all the allegations of conversion are false and Christian society is peace-seeker and prayerful. Anguished by the right-wing group's memorandum at Mohannagar police station, the Christian community met the Durg Superintendent of Police and submitted a memorandum on 28 July.

On 3 Aug in Supela, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Heeru Jagat and two other Christians were wrongly accused of doing religious conversion work, insulting the sentiments of other faith groups, and consequently assaulted physically.

On 4 Aug in Kanker, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Shailesh Singh, from Bhanupratappur, have received the notice from the local police station to submit the details of the church and church members.

In Sukma, Chhattisgarh, the Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha, a young wing of a political party, submitted a memorandum dated 6 August to the Governor of Chhattisgarh State through the Sub-divisional officer of the district. In the memorandum, it was accused that Christian organizations are engaged in destroying the customary tradition of tribal society in the district.

On 8 Aug in Chhapora village, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh, a follower of Christ could not be buried on land dedicated to burial rites. Antichristian elements protested during the burial, demanding that the body of the deceased be taken away. Eventually, the administration intervened to arrange the burial.

On 8 August in DaundiLohara, Balod, Chhattisgarh worship was conducted in the church of Pastor Bhupendra Sahu in the presence of heavy police force as there was opposition to close down the church by the religious extremist elements. The threats were looming large from these elements to oppose the prayer meeting on an aforementioned day; therefore police were approached by Christians. Fortunately, Christian

legal advocacy groups and human rights groups connected with Pastor Bhupendra and guided him on the matter in terms of best practices from legal perspective.

On 10 August in Twin City Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, a ruckus was created by right-wing groups with false allegations of religious conversion against Christian preachers. They blocked the National Highway 53, also surrounding the Supela police station. They demanded that a First Information Report be filed against the pastor PastorHeeruJagatand two Christians who were falsely accused of performing a religious conversion on 3 August. The right-wing activists sought to build a narrative that a large number of locals were being harassed and misled by Christian preachings.

On 12 Aug in Bastar, in different districts of the division, a right-wing group held a rally against Christians with false allegations of religious conversion. Rally participants protested against the Constitutional values of India, which guarantee freedom of religion as outlined in Article 25.

On 19 August in LudhutolaKuiKukdur village, Kabirdham, a meeting was held by the village council heads of 40 villages. Regional heads of two major political parties along with the village council were also present at this meeting. In the meeting, it was decided that there would be a meeting again soon. In the next meeting, eight pastors, practising and professing Christianity across several villages, whose names were discussed in the meeting, would be asked to take part. Pastors would be required to announce their decision about whether they want to follow Christianity or return to their former faith.

On 24 August in Markanar village, Bande, Kanker, Chhattisgarh, a young girl, Kumari Meena Bada, 18, died due to drowning. The post-mortem was conducted at Bande Hospital, but when preparations were made to take her to the village for the last rites, the village heads refused to bury her in the village, because the girl's family members followed Christianity. As the dispute escalated, on August 25, the Naib Tehsildar (a local administrative officer) of Bande reached the village, but some people of the village remained adamant about not allowing the girl to be cremated in the village.

On 29 August in Khadkagaon village, Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh, Christians handed over a

memorandum to the district collector with regards to getting harassed by some domineering people of village Khadkagaon, just 10 km west of the district headquarters. According to the Christian families of the victims, they have been attending Christian prayer meetings out of their free will. But, for the last few days, some domineering people in the village have been harassing Christians through mental, financial, and social harassment. In a village meeting, a few days ago, Christian families of the village were verbally abused by the villagers, Ramsay Dugga and Shanturam Dugga.

On 29 August in Polmi village, Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh, a group of over 100 people beat up a 25-year-old pastor Kawal Singh Paraste and his family members after barging into his house. The mob raised slogans against religious conversion and accused Christians of the same. Before fleeing from the scene, the mob also vandalized their property.

On 29 August in Kahagaon village. Balod, Chhattisgarh, the Chhattisgarh Mahar Society and villagers organized a social gathering to re-convert Christians to their previous faith. Villagers and society officials accused Christian missionaries of targeting gullible uneducated tribal and Dalit families by luring them into Christianity.

On 5 September in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, a Christian priest, Harish Sahu, was falsely accused of carrying out religious conversion by the right-wing extremists. Hence, the pastor was called for questioning at the Purani Basti police station. After Sahu, who was accompanied by Chhattisgarh Christian Forum general secretary Ankush Bariyekar, several local right-wing activists also reached the police station. The mob accused Sahu of religious conversion and manhandled him as well as Bariyekar and one Prakash Masih inside the police station.

On 7 September in Jagdishpur, Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, an independent pastor Asim Sona was summoned to Sankra police station by saying that there was a complaint made against him for carrying out religious conversion work. The police called both him and his wife into the station to question them about the same complaint. The pastor clarified everything from his end when he visited the station. The pastor was let go right after interacting with SHO, though he was told he may be contacted again if needed.

On 26 September in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, pastor Dinesh Soni was with fellow Christians when

some people approached them and began to question them. They then called the right-wing group members and local police from Sector 1 police station. A woman named Jyoti Sharma, who is an office-bearer of the right-wing organization, physically assaulted the pastor by hitting him in the face.

On 3 October in Mowa, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, some members of right-wing groups attempted to barge into Pastor Ramu Yadav's church while the prayer meeting was on. Locals who are influenced by right-wing ideology accompanied them and made noises, but the women of the church faced them with courage. All the women protested and threw them out of the church.

On 3 October in the village Kusumi, Komakhan Police station, Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, the same Christian victims were attacked twice by religious extremists. One in the morning and another later in the afternoon as per information from Chhattisgarh Christian Forum. The villagers entered the house church and vandalized and slapped a 12-year-old boy inside the church.

On 3 October in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Santosh Rao was summoned to the Charoda Bhilai GRP police station. The police informed him that he was accused of performing a religious conversion. However, the pastor was released after he was questioned.

On 5 October in Charoda, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Santosh Rao's church was targeted again by religious extremists. A large mob barged into the church building and performed Hindu rituals in the church building proclaiming they are purifying the locations and making it a Hindu temple. Around a couple of days ago also, his church was targeted.

On 7 October in Sulangi village, Kanker, Chhattisgarh, Around 15 Christians were threatened with a social boycott because of their Christian faith. Ramdhar Salam, the pastor of a local church, informed that Mukesh Usendi, a government schoolteacher, along with other villagers have warned Christians that their homes will be vandalized. In addition, they will be denied access to drinking water, and their ration cards will be taken away.

On 10 October in Kotrahi village, Balrampur, Chhattisgarh, a Sunday prayer meeting was disrupted by local police who were called by right-wing group members, and Christians were warned not to conduct

prayer meetings. Prayers are led by an independent pastor, Vishal Vishwakarma.

On 11 October in Sulangi village, Kanker, Chhattisgarh, religious fundamentalists attempted to file a police complaint against Christian families at Koylibeda police station. Christians were falsely accused of religious conversion through allurements and under the pretext of holding prayer meetings, they speak derogatorily about other religions.

On 13 October in Kaundkera village, Mahasamund, Christians were threatened and warned by right-wing groups and village council members not to conduct Christian prayer meetings.

On 15 October in Titurdih, Durg, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Anirudh Mendhekar's church was attacked. A local leader of a right-wing group was continuously coming to his house for a few days and pressurizing him to close his place for worship. Many people of the right-wing group ransacked the pastor's house. They tore the picture of the Lord, broke the cross, and said obscene things against Christianity.

On 17 October in Oteband village, Durg, Chhattisgarh, a mob of hundreds of right-wingers attacked Christians gathered for dinner, searched their belongings, harassed and physically assaulted some of them. Members of the church were forced to line up as the mob searched their belongings and clothes. As an expression of gratitude to God for healing, Anil Tandon attended the program. The mob took him inside the house and slapped him three or four times. They then took him outside and assaulted him there, too. The mob of right-wingers also vandalized vehicles belonging to Christians.

On 18 October in Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, a false complaint of religious conversion was submitted at Nagari police station Pastor Dinesh Sahu. Hundreds of extremist elements had surrounded the police station and tried to exert pressure on police to take action against the pastor. Incharge of the Nagari station had brought Pastor Dinesh Sahu for questioning.

On 24 October in Baloda Bazar, Chhattisgarh, a prayer meeting, being led by pastor Dipak Ranjan, was disrupted by religious extremists. Christians were manhandled.

On 28 October in Gumdpal village, Darbha, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, Laxman Markam, a Christian,

died and was buried in the village land. However, some villagers forced the family of Laxman and other Christians to dig up the body on 29 October. Police were called by Christians for assistance. Officers approached both sides and convinced them to bury the bodies at the same place.

On 30 October in Patthal village, Jashpur, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Dharam Shyam was praying at the house of a fellow Christian. It was then some members of a right-wing group came and disrupted the prayer accusing him of carrying out the religious conversion and brought the pastor to a local police station.

On 31 October in Deobaloda, Durg District, Chhattisgarh, Jyoti Sharma, affiliated with a right-wing group, with other right-wing members reconverted five families to Hinduism, who had chosen to follow Christianity. The right-wing group also accused Christians and pastors that carrying out religious conversion work.

On 1 November in Jaitaloor village, Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, many families that had adopted the Christian faith, were forcefully reconverted to their previous faith. These families were pressured into being evicted from their land and property if they continued to follow Christianity. A similar incident took place in Gram Panchayat Cheramangi in Vardad in Bijapur on 2 November.

On 2 November in Nagri, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, DahstrathManikpuri, a Christian, was praying at the place of a fellow Christian, Keshav Das, around 5 p.m. According to reports, four villagers came and accused the Christians of religious conversion. They threw the copies of the Bible on the road, and assaulted the Christians.

On 6 November in Gumdpal village, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Samson Baghel was threatened by the villagers for holding a prayer meeting with Christians in the village. Therefore, he was unable to hold weekly prayer meetings for two consecutive Sundays.

On 6 November in Metapal village, Katekalyan, Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, as a result of their Christian faith, ten people from five families were physically assaulted with sticks by villagers. Christians were greatly injured by the beatings. Following are the names of some of the victims: SannuMarkam, MangliMarkam, HidmaPodiam, SomariPodiam,

Chaitu Podium, Jairam Sodhi, Visa Sodhi, Gamchand Sodhi, Pandey Podiam who were assaulted for practising the Christian faith.

On 7 November in village Udaipur Dhaba, Ambikapur, Surguja, Chhattisgarh, Pastor Salvation Minj, Christian Anil Kispotta, and one other Christian, were falsely booked under the Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Act. Christians had organized a Christian prayer meeting where people were invited to come out of their free will. Meanwhile, a right-wing group filed a false complaint against the above three individuals, claiming a religious conversion work was being conducted by the Manipur outpost police.

On 7 November in Charoda, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, while Rukmani Sonwani was conducting a prayer meeting, religious radicals came and disrupted the prayer as well as ransacked the church. Everyone was chased away, and the attackers attempted to demolish the prayer hall. Local pastors submitted a police complaint at Bhilai 3 GRP police station.

On 11 November in Parapur village, Lohandiguda, Bastar, twelve villagers who had converted to Christianity were forcibly re-converted to their previous faith. Some of them were physically assaulted too. Names of the victims are as follows: Chaitu Podium, MongdiMadkami, SantuMadkami, Manu Madkami, Jairam Sodhi, HidmaPodiam, SukmatiGametion, SomariPodiam, Hidme Sodhi, Bijo Sodhi, and BoodriSodhi.'

On 14 November in Hardi village, Bemetara, Chhattisgarh, two Christian families were harassed jointly by the villagers and three policemen from the nearby Kandarka police post. The villagers slapped a Christian girl from one of the families in front of the police and the village council head. They then abused Christian families in the name of caste and threatened to expel them from the village.

On 14 November in Beladula Jangir, Chhattisgarh, two pastors, Rajesh Yadav and Narendra Banjare and some Christians were taken into police custody on a false accusation of religious conversion. There was a ruckus created by the members of the right-wing groups for police to take action. In response to the information about the matter, a team from the Chakradharnagar police station arrived on the scene and brought the pastors to the police station for questioning. The pastors were then booked and arrested.

On 16 November in Dimripal, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, a tribal Christian was beaten severely, his pregnant wife also beaten for following the Christian faith.

On 21 November in Jashpur, Chhattisgarh, Prabal Pratap Singh associated with a political party inclined to right-wing ideology, said that the Christian missionaries took advantage of the helplessness of the poor and converted them. He added, the trade of religion was done under the guise of education and health, and he will continue to expose them. The comment was made by Singh on the occasion when he was carrying out the ceremony of GharWapsi (reconversion) on 1200 people who adopted Christianity three generations ago in Khuntapani village.

On 25 November in Basgaon village, Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh, Christians were socially boycotted by the villagers on account of their Christian faith. By the villagers, Christians were denied access to drinking water, threatened of their property being snatched and told that Christians wouldn't be allowed to bury their dead on the village land.

On 26 November in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, as per media, the Division Commissioner issued a direction to the district collectors in Bastar to take effective actions in matters of religious conversions keeping confidentiality. The direction linked the law and order situation to the Christians as they are converting tribal society and other groups to Christianity under the guise of propagating their religion.

On 6 December in village Malgaon, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, a community meeting was arranged by right-wing members along with villagers. And in this meeting, they planned to oppose Christians in practising, professing and propagating their faith. Presently, around forty Christian families are living in the village.

On 15 December in Goverdhan village, Kanker, Chhattisgarh, the last rites of a Christian woman, named Chaiti Bai, were denied by villagers and the village council on account of her Christian faith. The affected family contacted district administration for help. A team consisting of Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Sub Divisional Magistrate and Tahsildar from the district administration had come, but the SDPO also sided with

the villagers and accused Christians of carrying out the conversion.

On 19 Dec in Mattadi village, Katekalyan, Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, village council organized a meeting where Christians from the village were summoned and threatened to renounce their faith. Every alternate day, these village council meetings are organized where those who have adopted the Christian faith are intimidated, harassed, and threatened with social boycotts. Here are some of the victims who are Christians: 1. Laxman Mandavi 2. Somadu Waco 3. Budhram Mandavi 4. Sannu Markami 5. Sanju Mandavi 6. Manohar Mandavi 7. Sukko Waco 8. Ayatu Waco 9. Hope Waco 10. Budhri Waco 11. Aayete Mandavi 12. Butki Mandavi 13. Lakme Mandavi 14. Hidme Merkami.

On 20 December in Jashpur, Chhattisgarh, Father Arun Kujur, Pastor Basant Lakra, Pastor Salmon Tigga, and Pastor Dino Kujur were falsely accused of carrying out a religious conversion and hurting religious sentiments by the Hindu Sangathan Janjaati Suraksha, a right-wing inclined organisation. As a result, a first information report was registered against the father and three pastors at the Bagicha police station.

On 22 December, villagers from 10 villages gathered in Abujhmad village, Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh, to protest and strategize about how to put a halt to Christian ministry activities in the villages. In the meeting, the representatives of Sarva Adivasi Samaj attributed the rise in mutual disputes and quarrel in the area to Christianity.

DELHI

On 22 March in New Delhi, in the Supreme Court of India, a petition was filed by a political leader whose group espoused right-wing ideology. The petition alleged that the court should direct the Centre and the States to control black magic, superstition and religious conversion being done through threats, intimidation or bribes. On 9 April, the Supreme Court said people are free to choose their own religion and lashed out at the petition that claimed that there is mass religious conversion happening “by hook or by crook” across the country. A Bench led by Justice Rohinton F.

Nariman said people have a right under the Constitution to profess, practise and propagate religion. Justice Nariman asked the petitioner, we will impose heavy costs on you, withdraw it or argue and risk the consequences. The petition was dismissed as withdrawn.

On 16 May near Yamuna Vihar, North East Delhi district, Delhi, irate relatives threatened a couple - Varsha and her husband - for accepting Christian beliefs. The couple were warned of a physical assault on them and their friend, who was instrumental in leading them to Christianity. The relatives warned them that they would approach the police claiming that the religious conversion occurred due to the allurements of financial benefits.

On July 12 in Lado Sarai, Delhi, Municipal Corporation came with three bulldozers and some 150 police personnel and demolished the Little Flower Syro-Malaba church. According to Father Jose Kannukuzhi, they said they would only demolish a hall adjacent to the church. As a result, he did not remove the sacred items from the church. Faridabad's Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara expressed sadness and shock over the incident and said the authorities had destroyed a religious structure and hurt the sentiments of the people. Some 1,500 local Catholics use the land for religious purposes, which was donated to the diocese 12 years ago. Pastor council member and lawyer John Thomas claims that the church did not receive the notice from authorities. Neither were we notified nor were we given a deadline to leave the land.

On 19 July in Anand Parvat, Delhi, according to reports received, religious extremists disrupted a prayer meeting by alleging that conversion activities were taking place.

On 03 October in Asola Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi, 12 men came to Pastor Santosh Dan's home and threatened him for sharing the Gospel. They accused the pastor of trying to convert people through allurements. A video of him was made and he was warned not to let any Hindu into his home for any reason.

On 27 November in Dwarka, Delhi, Pastor Ankur Naruvala's Matiala Church was attacked and vandalized by a member of a right-wing group. Christians said all the allegations against the worshippers of being involved in forced conversion of

locals were baseless. They said they were peacefully holding the Sunday mass when right-wing members barged in and vandalised the premises.

On 28 December in Dabri mode, Janakpuri, Delhi, Pastor Kumar was severely assaulted by religious extremists on account of distributing bible tracts. The pastor was falsely accused of carrying out religious conversion work and taken to a police station in Janakpuri by the extremists. The police investigated and found no evidence to support the allegations. Therefore, the pastor was released by the police.

In a letter addressed to the Northern India Zonal Assembly of the Mar Thoma Church on 31 December, a right-wing group from Ramakrishna Puram, Delhi, accused them of converting individuals to Christianity. The right-wing group stated that under the guise of running educational and service organizations, they are involved in conversion by missionaries in India.

GUJARAT

On 1 June in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (Amendment) Act, 2021, came into effect by the State Legislative Assembly. Christian and other religious minorities in Gujarat State are disturbed about a new state law that they say restricts their right to manage their educational institutions. Father Teles Fernandes, secretary of the Gujarat Education Board of Catholic Institutions, said that the new law has practically withdrawn the rights of all religious minorities guaranteed in the constitution to establish and manage educational institutions.

On 17 June in Sabuti village, Dediapada taluk, Narmada district, Gujarat, an under-construction church building was demolished by the local gram panchayat despite the church being in possession of relevant building permits. The Janjaati Suraksha Manch had submitted an application to the district collector that the village was a tribal area and there were no Christians there, that Christians had come from outside and built the church in the village, and that if the church was built it would be harmful to their society. Thereafter, the church was razed down to the ground despite church officials having written permission

given in 2008 by the village council head for land allocation and church construction.

On 26 June in Valsad district, Gujarat, several local dailies reported that a memorandum had been sent to the Chief Minister of Gujarat to insinuate hostility against Christians in the district. The memorandum was targeted against the Adivasi Christians highlighting three points: 1. to ascertain whether there were Adivasi Christians wherever a church exists in the region, 2. if Adivasi Christians were found, then all their benefits as a Scheduled Tribe should be taken away, and 3. to investigate if the church buildings were built as per existing laws.

On 3 July in Fatepura Block, Dahod, Gujarat, according to local sources, right-wing activists targeted a pastor blaming him and his prayers for the death of a local person who had passed away after suffering a heart attack. Pastor Daud was blamed for the death of the person. Pastor Daud has been ministering in the area for some time and has a structure on his land where he holds prayer meetings. He has reported opposition and threats in the past too.

On 14 August in Surat, Gujarat, a group of religious extremists disrupted an ongoing prayer meeting. Furthermore, they demanded that the present Christians and the pastor show their identification cards in threatening tones.

On 27 August, along with his church members, Pastor Edwin from Jasodanagar, Ahmedabad, was travelling to Mount Abu hill station for a picnic. As they were boarding the bus, religious extremists spotted them and falsely accused them of religious conversion. Eventually, they were able to leave and begin their journey to the hill station. However, one person from the crowd chased them on a bike. He noted their bus' details, visited the bus traveller agent's office and took the phone numbers of one of the Christians who rented the bus. They then came to one of the Christians' homes and asked who all was in leadership in their church.

On 6 September in Valsad, Gujarat, the Wesleyan Methodist Church's Rev. Daniel was asked to come to the local police station. It was alleged that some people who had been opposing church activities, had submitted a complaint to the Chief Minister's office. Therefore, the local police were investigating. According to officials at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, this was a serious attempt to harass Wesleyan

church pastors and somehow to shut down the activities of the church. Police sought information about the church's list of existing church members and various other documents including a record of baptisms.

On 12 December in Vadodara, Gujarat, a first information report was filed at Makarpura police station against The Missionaries of Charity, an organisation founded by Mother Teresa. The organisation was booked under the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003, for allegedly “hurting Hindu religious sentiments” and “luring towards Christianity young girls” in a shelter home it runs in Vadodara city. According to a spokesperson for the Missionaries of Charity, the organization does not participate in any religious conversion activities.

On 25 December at Vankal Village, Chikhali Taluka, Navsari District, Gujarat, a Christmas program was disrupted. Activists of the right-wing group rushed to the spot where the program was happening, following information that a Christmas celebration was being held. Activists barged in and disrupted the program, accusing a local pastor and organizers of religious conversion through allurements. The program was co-organized by Jaswant Patel, a Christian, who is from Vankal village and has moved to Paris and accepted the Christian faith.

HARYANA

On 1 March in Shivpuri, Ambala, Haryana, religious extremists associated with the local temple administration attempted to permanently shut down Christians Prayer meetings by threatening Pastor Anoop Kumar. A Christian advocacy group subsequently helped guide the pastor in this matter. As a result, a compromise was effected through mutual understanding between both parties.

On 19 March in Faridabad, Haryana, miscreants vandalized the walls and gates of an under-construction church building of the Assemblies of God Church and stole the building materials. Subsequently, church officials filed a police complaint.

On 11 April in Tarawadi village, Karnal district, Haryana, miscreants disrupted a Christian prayer meeting, created a ruckus, and falsely accused Pastor Vikram Paul of engaging in religious conversions. The

incident occurred while the pastor was conducting the regular Sunday prayer service at his rented home when two men from his neighbourhood barged into the house and verbally abused him. Later, his landlord demanded that Paul stop all prayer meetings. Christian advocacy groups have raised the concern with state police officers and requested their intervention.

On 23 June, using extremely anti-minority rhetoric, a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader in India on Wednesday tweeted his support for mass 're-conversion' programs pushing Indian Christians and Muslims to convert to Hinduism. “The whole world knows that most of the ancestors of India's Christians and Muslims are Hindus,” Surendra Jain, the VHP's Joint General-Secretary, said in a tweeted video message. “A few Muslim rulers and Christian missionaries forcibly converted Hindu people. But now all of them should convert back.” Surendra Jain is a Central office bearer of Vishva Hindu Parishad in Rohtak, Haryana, as Jt. General Secretary.

On 30 June at Sangoi village in Karnal District, Haryana, a suspected criminal released on bail killed pastor Vinod Kumar for sharing the “love and forgiveness of Christ” with him. Sonu Kashyap attacked pastor Kumar with a wooden roof truss at about 8 p.m. The pastor had received a call from Kashyap's brother to visit a sick villager. He was attacked as he was about to leave the ill person's home. Sonu Kashyap was waiting in ambush as the pastor was about to start his motorbike and ambushed him unaware from behind.

On 05 and 06 July in Village Nimriwla, Bhiwani, Haryana, the JatKhap conducted a village council meeting against pastors Surender Bhola and Mukesh and warned them to stop conducting Christian prayer activities in that village.

On 14 Jul in Bhiwani, Haryana, Pastor Satyaveer Singh and his congregation were praying in the house of a fellow Christian. Suddenly, the religious fanatics barged into the prayer meeting and threatened the pastor and other Christians saying that they would be expelled if they continued to practice Christianity.

On 18 Jul in Indri, Karnal, Haryana, Pastor Suresh Kanta's under-construction church was vandalized and among the debris, a stone was found with "not the church but a grave will be built here." scrawled on it.

On 1 Aug in Gandhi Nagar, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, Pastor CharanDass and 3 members of his family have been falsely accused of religious conversion activity by the two right-wing organizations. They filed a first information report at Gandhi Nagar police station accusing the pastor, his wife, and two children.

On 21 Aug in Hisar, Haryana, Pastor SatpalThoma along with four other Christians was arrested by Agroha police. Some locals falsely claimed all five of them were involved in religious conversion. However, subsequently, in the first information report, all five of them were falsely accused of creating public disorder.

On 24 September in Garounda, Karnal, Haryana, nearly 10 people on 4 bikes between 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm attacked Pastor Vikas Singh and his family with various iron weapons while they were returning from a prayer meeting. They were saved by some people from another village. Due to the timely intervention of villagers, they were spared from having any major injuries but they do have some small marks on his wife's body. The pastor apprehends the attack took place due to his religious activity as a Christian. A complaint has been filed at midnight at the Garounda Police Station, but the Pastor's family is in pain and in fear.

On 26 September in the Sui village, Bawanikhera, Bhiwani, Haryana, Pastor Raj kumar, his family, and some of his guests, followers of Christ, were praying at his home when some radical elements barged into his home and disputed the prayer meeting. They verbally abused and threatened the pastor, and everyone present. They also used profanity against Christianity, verbally abused Christian women, and warned Christianmen of a social boycott.

On 28 September in Fatehpur, Yamunanagar, Haryana, Pastor John Fernande was threatened by antichristian elements at his church member's house while he was conducting a house prayer. He was also accused of carrying out religious conversion work through allurement.

On 3 October in Karnal, Haryana, a Christian woman, Kanika, and about 25 to 30 other Christians were attacked by members of a right-wing group during a Sunday prayer service. The home where Christians were praying was also vandalized.

On 28 November in Panchkula, Haryana, some religious extremists came around Pastor Qayum Sheikh's house and raised anti-Christian slogans saying they will not allow anybody to convert to Christianity even if the conversion happens out of a free will of a believer.

On 29 November in Julana, Jind, Haryana, Pastor Sonu was detained at a local police station for the allegation of converting poor people by a right-wing group. The police registered a complaint against the pastor.

On 29 November in Brah Khurd village, Jind, Haryana, JatKhap panchayat approached the Prayer meeting conducted by Pastor Vivek Singh and disrupted the same. They accused the pastor of carrying out religious conversion work.

On 5 December in Kalpi, Ambala Cantt, Haryana, Pastor Rajvir was conducting a Christian prayer convention and he had rented the hall for the meeting. He had also taken permission from the district collector (DC), but before the start of the program, DC had revoked the permission. While the prayer meeting was going around 150 right-wing fanatics came and they started abusing, threatening them.

In the first week of November, Tina Sharma, a Christian and a teacher from Panipat, Haryana, found out that a Right to Information (RTI) had been filed against her at the school that she was falsely accused of being involved in religious conversion activity. Despite Tina's name not appearing on the RTI, other details such as her address, school, and subject teacher point to her. Therefore, an enquiry was carried out by the school administration. As per Tina Sharma, she is getting targeted for her Christian faith.

On 9 December in Rohtak, Haryana, members of right-wing organisations tried to force their way into a church but were stopped by the police. The right-wingers falsely claimed that the church was carrying out a religious conversion. The police reached the spot and the mob was contained after much commotion. Pastor Prasanth Moses told police that people come to the church out of devotion, just like any other place of worship. And, the church never forces anyone to participate in prayer.

On 13 December in Panipat, Haryana,

around 60 religious extremists attacked Pastor Gulshan's church. He is a pastor of AG Church. Extremists threatened to kill Pastor and damaged church properties. A written complaint regarding this incident was given to the police by Pastor. Station House Officer Vijay of the local police station came on the spot but no action was taken against the accused persons.

On 15 December in Yamunanagar (Haryana), Pastor Salatin Masih was attacked by some religious extremists on account of his Christian faith. The pastor was praying in the church at the time when the incident took place. Pastor Salatin was then taken to Gandhinagar police station after the incident was reported to the police.

On 18 December in Yamunanagar, Haryana, there were about 300 religious extremists who surrounded the office of Superintendent of Police and falsely accused Christians of carrying out conversion work. They took out a rally and blocked the road, causing traffic.

On 19 December in the village Barah Kalan, Jind, Haryana, Sister Reena and her husband Naresh Kumar were asked to join the village council meeting on account of practising and professing the Christian faith, but they refused out of safety concerns as they apprehended there would be strong opposition to their faith. Shortly after, around 8 people from their village came to their home and threatened them for holding the regular Christian prayer meetings in the village.

On 23 December in Hisar, Haryana, Pastor Rajesh was celebrating the Christmas festival along with fellow Christians. Some religious extremists came to the venue and disrupted the Christmas program, and Pastor Rajesh was taken into custody by the police. The pastor was released immediately after a Christian advocacy group called the police and cited Article 25 of the Constitution, which protects citizens' religious freedom.

On 24 December in Narhera village, Gurgram, Haryana, a group of men led by a politician barged into a private school and disrupted a Christmas celebration. In addition, they raised the slogans "Jai Shri Ram (long live Lord Ram)" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" (hail mother India). One of the persons remarked that Christianity is not acceptable her

On 25 December in Indri, Karnal, Haryana,

Pastor Lalit Kumar's church was vandalized at midnight, between 1 am to 2 am. The pastor has been doing ministry work in the area independently for the past three years. Before Pastor Lalit, the same church was being led by Pastor PK James from 2013 to 2018. This is a makeshift arrangement of the church to conduct prayer meetings without any fence or wall around the structure. Due to the demolition of the church, the pastor had to organize the Christmas celebration in the adjacent land in an open space.

On 25 December in village Siwanka, Gohana, Sonipat, Haryana, about 100 religious fanatics disrupted a Christmas being celebrated by Christians. The attackers vandalized and physically assaulted some Christians, injuring 73-year-old church pastor Ram Kishan's son Vinod Kishan. His medical was done by a local hospital. After much effort, the police registered a first information report for Christians. However, it was later revealed that there was also a first information report registered against Christians.

On 25 December in Shahabad, Kurukshetra, Haryana, a Christmas program was organized under the leadership of Pastor Gurudev. At the same time, a group of religious extremists attacked the church and disrupted the program. The police were called and a written application was given to the police by Christians.

On 25 December in Mussimbal, Yamunanagar, Haryana, a right-wing group disrupted the Christmas celebration was organized by local Christians. Right-wing groups falsely accused Church pastor Ravi and Christians of carrying out religious conversion work through allurements.

On 25 December in Karnal, Haryana, a Catholic Church was approached by the religious extremists at the noon time of Christmas day with the intention of disrupting the Christmas celebration. However, Police was at once called in by the Church Fr. Sumesh. Police came and maintained law and order to ensure that peace and safety prevail.

On 25 December in Ambala Cantonment (Cantt), Haryana, two miscreants vandalized a statue of Jesus Christ at the entrance gate of the historical Holy Redeemer Church in the early hours of Sunday morning following Christmas prayers. As per the police, the incident occurred around 1:00 am. Preliminary investigation revealed that two suspects had entered the church property, broken lights, and

vandalized the statue after Christmas prayers. They even urinated in front of the Church door

On 25 December in Barwala, Panchkulla, Haryana, Pastor Qayum Sheikh along with his church members was worshipping and celebrating Christmas day. Around 12 to 15 right-wing group members came and disrupted the Celebration and assaulted Christians.

On 26 December in Sampla, Rohtak, Haryana, members of a right-wing group attempted to disrupt regular Sunday prayers and Christmas celebrations at Pastor Baburam Das's church. There were around 30 members of the right-wing group who gathered near the main entrance of the church. Fortunately, since the church was filled with more Christians that Sunday, the situation did not escalate and the service, as well as the Christmas celebration, proceeded smoothly. However, Pastor and Christians had to discuss the matter with the venue owner since it was rented.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

On 29 September in Lalas village, Himachal Pradesh, Rev. Charlie John and two other Christians, Vishal and Keval Ram, were taken to Rampur Police station by a mob of religious extremists amidst sloganeering. At the police station, they were charged and arrested on charges of forced conversion. When they were interrogated, they rejected the accusations and repeated their innocence. As per Rev Charlie John and two others, they were distributing copies of the Bible to those who took them freely.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

On 25 December in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, Missionary ChunglienSingsit associated with FMPB while he was returning from a Christmas program, he was threatened and shouted at for carrying copies of the New Testament by religious extremists. He was also pressured to recite the name of Sri Ram.

JHARKHAND

On 17 January in Potanga village, Barkagaon tehsil, Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand, around fifty villagers physically assaulted Anita Hansda and her mother for their Christian beliefs. Anita and her mom attend the Believers Church. With the support of a Christian advocacy group, Anita filed a police complaint at the Barkagaon police station. Though the police confronted the attackers and warned them of legal consequences, the villagers also filed a complaint against the Christians.

On 22 January in Khala village, Dhurki block, Garhwa district, Jharkhand, three Korwa tribal families were allegedly fined Rs 25,051 each, caned and made to do 110 sit-ups after a kangaroo court declared them social outcasts for converting to Christianity. Jaiwardhan Kumar, the subdivisional magistrate (SDM) of Banshidhar Nagar, confirmed that he had received reports about the alleged backlash against conversions in the area.

On 24 January in Jungur village, Latehar district, Jharkhand, Pastor Lakshman Oraon and other Christians, were summoned by the village elders to a meeting where they were told to give donations for the ritual worship of tribal deities. When the pastor refused, they tied his hands behind his back, knocked him to the floor, and struck his back, head, and face. When the pastor defended that being Christians they were free of such obligations, the villagers reminded him that his ancestors were tribal priests, that he was a useless ingrate who adopted a foreign faith, and that he must be taught a lesson. Further, they threatened to expel all the Christians from the village.

On 31 January in Khala village, Dhurki block, Garhwa district, Jharkhand, a Christian family of Asha Korwa, was attacked on account of their Christian faith. The mob brought with them the village president, the media and police officers. In addition to her husband, her two children, ages 3 and 6, were also physically abused. As the media clicked their cameras and videotaped the attack, the police watched as mere spectators. Asha's husband was subsequently summoned to the Garhwa police station under Section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code. He was told that he had been found responsible for breaching peace and public tranquillity.

On 9 February in Chapi village, Palamu, Jharkhand, a Christian woman, 26-year-old Mantu Devi, with her children, was expelled to the woods by her relatives on account of her Christian faith. Her in-laws and villagers figured out the family had converted to Christianity when she and her husband, Sunil Oraon, stepped away from idol worship and customs. Devi faced death threats from Sunil's parents and had been through a brutal physical assault before she was expelled to the woods. The next day, a police officer came to her, warning her that if she did not obey the village elders and respect their religious customs, her father-in-law would file criminal charges against her.

On February 11 in Garhwa, Jharkhand, Christians were brutally attacked by religious fanatics who accused them of constructing an unauthorized church and converting people to Christianity. Because of the assault, three Christians were hospitalized with severe injuries and 12 were charged with false accusations of several crimes. According to local sources, a mob of 30 fanatics, encouraged by a man named Shankar, struck the building site and assaulted the Christians. Following the assault, local police recorded FIR No. 20/21 against 12 Christians that were assaulted by the extremists. Three Christians, Sunil Kumar, Sambu Kumar, and Aryan, were arrested and put in jail.

On 21 March in Kerki Khurd village, Chhatarpur block, Palamu district, Jharkhand, Jagdish Oraon, a Christian, was socially boycotted and hindered from availing any employment in the village. Due to his Christian beliefs, his younger and older brother have been exerting pressure on him to renounce his faith. In order to ends meet Oraon worked at a farm. However, a group of villagers have started ostracizing him from the community and his work. Nine members of Oraon's family hold to Christian beliefs, and Pastor Sarabjit Bharti conducts regular prayers. No police complaint has been filed yet.

On 8 March in Lohardaga district, Jharkhand, a group of villagers threatened, Kuldeep Oraon, a Christian, with social ostracization from the village owing to his Christian beliefs and practices. Oraon's close family members also have been pressuring him to renounce his beliefs, if not, they would prevent him from working in the field or allow his sisters to be married. Amid the harassment from immediate family members, Oraon's family have been facing pressure to make donations for religious activities. Though Oraon responded that he was a Christian, the opposition from

villagers has mounted up.

On 10 March in Palamu district, Jharkhand, anti-social elements in an inebriated condition barged into a Christian wedding ceremony and created a ruckus. GulabchandraBhuiyaa's daughter, Sarojini Kumari, was engaged to be married, when the thugs created an uproar demanding that the hosts play film songs instead of Christians songs. When the hosts politely turned down their demands, they manhandled some of the guests and Bhuiyaa's relatives. At around 9 pm, Bhuiyaa and some of his well-wishers went to Chhatarpur police station and submitted a written complaint. When they returned to the wedding venue, to their utter shock, they saw the goons beating up the brother of the groom, hurling obscene language against Christians and Christianity. Despite the police complaint no action was initiated.

On 12 March in Bishrampur block, Palamu district, Jharkhand, Pastor Daniyal Kar was threatened and forced to stop conducting prayer meetings in the area. According to local sources, the pastor was being harassed by a Sub Inspector who has been acting at the behest of Pankaj Lal, the leader of a religious radical group. The pastor was hindered from conducting prayer meetings for two consecutive Sundays. Eventually, he approached the Superintendent of Police with a complaint on 23 March.

On March 13 in Chapi village, Palamu, Jharkhand, Mantu Devi, a Christ-follower, was physically assaulted with false accusations of stealing by her mother-in-law and others because of her Christian faith. Devi's in-laws came to Devi's shed in the woods and struck her with bamboo sticks for stealing grain from their home. Mantu has been getting targeted and harassed for months now for her faith.

On 16 April in Dhab village, Domchanch block, Koderma district, Jharkhand, Uttam Sharma, a Christian, was physically assaulted by some of his neighbours. The attackers were irate about the Christian prayer meetings that Uttam and his wife, Pinky Sharma, often conduct at their home. The couple had also been threatened a couple of days before the attack. When they brought their complaint to Sub-Inspector Dileep Kumar at the Dhab police station, they were met with a cold response. Subsequently, RLC activists called Kumar and requested him to ensure protection and freedom for the couple to practice their faith.

On 9 Aug in Naraina village, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, a group of Christian Evangelists were confronted and accused of carrying out religious conversion work. Thankfully, through mutual understanding the matter was resolved, it did not escalate to Christians getting physically assaulted.

On 18 August in the village Gariloung, Chatra, Jharkhand, a village council meeting was held by villagers and Diwani Kumar's uncle, a local pastor, as well as Christian villagers. After everyone gathered, the pastor's uncle and the villagers declared that Christians had to give up their religion or leave the village. It is informed that villagers have been harassing Christians from time to time. During the meeting, Christians heard that the pastor's uncle and villagers said they would not spare Christians, and that they would call people from other villages to attack them.

On 30 August in Jamdih village, Gumla, Jharkhand, a false complaint of religious conversion and sexual abuse of a minor was made against 15 Christians including a local pastor Sheetal Ram. The complaint was made at the Kurkura police station and the following sections were invoked: sections 323, 341, 295, 504, 448, 506, and 509 of IPC and Section 4 (forced conversion) of the Religious Freedom Act and Section 8 (Sexual Harassment of Minors) of POCSO Act.

On 18 September in MangapatSirasai, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, villagers and village council heads invited Christians to participate in the village council meeting. The Christians were RautuBankira, Rajendra Bankira, and HiralalBankira who had accepted the Christian faith out of their free will recently. In the meeting, the police station incharge of Mazgaon, the police personnel of Kumardungi police station and the office bearers of Adivasi Ho Samaj Yuva Mahasabha were also present. Christians were offered to re-convert to their previous religion, but the converted Christians politely declined. Hence, a social boycott was imposed against the families of these three Christians.

On 5 October in Mahil village, Khunti, Jharkhand, a follower of Christianity, Raju Dhanwar, was harassed by calling in a village meeting on account of his Christian faith. There have been times when those who oppose Christianity have come around his house and demonstrated their protest towards the Christian faith. A rights-based advocacy group

contacted the Muruhu police station, under whose jurisdiction this police station falls, and spoke with the Station House Officer. The officer responded saying that the matter was sensitive, but the police were trying to resolve it.

On 6 November in Dhab, Koderma, Jharkhand, Christians namely Shankar Bhula, DukhhanBhula and others were conducting and participating in fasting and prayers. Police from Dhab station came to them, told them they had received a complaint they were involved in religious conversion activity as well as not following covid appropriate behaviours.

On 8 December in Ranchi, Jharkhand, the Adivasi Sarna Vikas Committee while celebrating the 40th death anniversary of one of their leaders accused is a conspiracy being hatched up to convert the tribals to Christianity.

On 11 November in Irgaon, Lohardaga, Jharkhand, Lilmuni Devi was threatened by the villagers with a social boycott at a village council meeting. The incident happened shortly after Lilmuni accepted Christianity.

On 13 December in GarhToli, Gumla, Jharkhand, worship service and prayer was conducted by Missionary Boas Guria. 16 members of a right-wing group entered the House Church, stopped the worship service, and accused the congregation of conversion. They threatened not to hold prayers in the church again.

On 19 December in GarhToli, Gumla, Jharkhand, a mob of members of two right-wing groups disrupted the worship service, usually conducted by Missionary Boas Guria. Police came and intervened in the matter and stopped untoward incidents. The mob had come in search of Boas Guria, but he was conducting house church in another place. The police then prohibited the Christians from conducting prayer in that place and have suggested they gather in some other place. This house church was also targeted about a week ago, and its services were disrupted.

On 27 December in Darua village, Palamu, Jharkhand, a Christmas prayer and new year celebration were held in the front yard of the home of a Christian named Teju. The prayer was led by pastor Shivkumar Ram and to participate in it many local Christians had come together. During the prayer

meeting, local extremists barged into the meeting and attacked Christians including the pastor. They sustained injuries to the head and other parts of the body. Teju's home was also vandalised and vehicles belonging to Christians were damaged.

KARNATAKA

On 3 January in Abbigeri village, Koppal district, Karnataka, Pastor DevendhrappaJamalappaLamani was severely assaulted by a mob of about 20 tribal animists because of his Christian faith. The mob dragged pastor DevendhrappaJamalappaLamani from a home where he was teaching from the Bible to three other Christian families at about 6 pm. In foul language, they told him that he had maligned their Banjara tribal culture by introducing a foreign faith and that he was a traitor disloyal to his motherland. Koppal police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against six assailants – the only ones the pastor could name.

On 4 January in Bannimardatti village, located in the Hassan District, Karnataka, 15 Christian families were summoned to a meeting with the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) along with other police officials. At the meeting, the DSP asked the Christians to show proof that they were Christian and accused them of collecting government benefits as both Christians and Hindus. The DSP then outlawed the Christians from gathering for worship in Bannimardatti village. The official justified this order by claiming none of the Christians in Bannimardatti village were Christian at birth and falsely claimed they were coercively or fraudulently had accepted Christianity. The DSP's order is in direct disagreement with the religious freedom rights under Article 25 of the Indian constitution. According to Article 25, Indian citizens have the freedom to profess, practise, and propagate the religion of their choice.

On 31 January in Harohalli village, Kanakapura tehsil, Ramanagara district, Karnataka, a church was attacked by religious extremists. Pastor Subhash Hanok and 27 Christian believers were injured and hospitalised. Subsequently, Hanok approached Harohalli police station and registered an FIR under sections 143, 323, 354, 448, 506, 504 and 149 of IPC and section 3(1)(r) and 3(1)(s) are SC/ST Act.

On 9 February in Chitradurga, Karnataka,

Pastor Ashok and Anand were falsely accused of hurting and insulting the religious sentiment of a community by members of a right-wing. Hence, Anand was arrested and sent to jail. Anand was later released, however, after he was able to secure bail. Pastor Ashok was not in the town when Anand was arrested and was working towards receiving anticipatory bail against the false charges.

On 23 February in Chikmagalur district, Karnataka, Pastor Krishna, Pastor Umesh and another Christian were arrested and charged with The Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act along with charges of engaging in religious conversion activities. Their application for bail was rejected by a lower court.

On 24 February in Mysuru, Karnataka, Mr Pratap Simha, Member of Parliament (MP), said to the officials why the tribals, if they are converting to Christianity, were receiving benefits mandated by the government. The comment came from MP at the Karnataka Development Programme meeting with the officials. The MP reiterated that those “wearing the cross” should not be given any facility, check and filter Christians. Karnataka Christian Political Leaders Forum had sought an immediate apology from the MP for his comments against the Christian community. It warned that failing compliance, the community will launch strong agitation against him.

On 27 February in Kallur village, Belgaum district, Karnataka, Prakash Narayan, a Christian, and his family were arrested by Bailhongal police and detained at the police station for queries. Narayan and his family were picked up from the home of a Christian family where they had gone for a friendly visit. Some local villagers complained to the police that Narayan and his family were involved in religious conversions. Only after the other family gave a written undertaking that Narayan's visit had no conversion element to it, that the police released them without any charges.

On 27 February in Itaga, Gulbarga district, Karnataka, a mob of 15 Bajrang Dal activists stormed a Methodist Church where 25 Christians had gathered for Lent prayers. The mob accused the Christians of causing a public disturbance by gathering for worship and demanded the church be shut down permanently.

On 1 March in Bilakundi village, Gokak taluka, Belgaum district, Karnataka, a mob barged into a birthday celebration and beat up Pastor Sadashiv R

Mang. The pastor had organized his 10-year-old child's birthday party at his home when the incident occurred. On the day of the Child's birthday, pastor Sadashiv had invited a pastor, named Prakash Badigar, as a guest to pray over the child, and invited a Christian worship singer Ratan Pawar, who is visually impaired. While the celebration was going on, a mob of around 30 people barged into the house and attacked pastor Sadashiv. They also damaged the music system, television set etc. They told the pastor not to conduct prayer meetings in the village. Subsequently, a first information report was filed at the local police station against the assailants by the pastor. Some of the members of the mobs were arrested however there was a counter first information report against the pastor after 4 days. Also, those who were arrested were later released and no compensation was given to the pastor for the losses incurred due to the damage.

On 3 March in Salagame village, Hassan district, Karnataka, right-wing religious radical threatened Pastor Puttaswamy and warned him against conducting prayer meetings in the locality. They told him that if he did not stop the meetings he would be severely beaten up. Local sources reported that the pastor approached Hassan rural police station but no help was provided.

On 14 March in Bailhongal, Belgaum, Karnataka, when Christians were praying their prayer meeting was disrupted, and they were taken to the local police station by a right-wing group. As per the Church Pastor Vinay, a complaint was submitted against Christians. The right-wing group told Christians that they are all Hindus, not Christians, and asked why they needed churches and if they are getting money, and why don't they go to Hindu temples and visit Gurus. From morning until evening, Christians were detained at the police station. Before releasing the Christians, police also told them not to conduct prayer meetings at the same location as they wouldn't be able to provide protection.

On 14 March in Bailhongal, Belgaum, Karnataka, Pastor Prabhakar Sathnapalli was threatened for conducting a prayer meeting by a right-wing group. He was asked as to whom he had permission from and why he even conducted prayer meetings. Pastor politely responded that he had taken the place on rent for the prayer meeting. Members of the right-wing group asked him to stop the prayer and told him that Christianity is a foreign religion and Indian only belongs to Hindus. Then they manhandled the pastor. Police came to the spot and took all the

Christians including the pastor to the police station. Police questioned Christians about why they gathered with the pastor and prayed to Jesus. Christians responded by saying they follow Christianity out of their own free will.

On 18 March in Kanka Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, religious radicals confronted and opposed an ongoing prayer meeting of the Power of God Ministries church. The incident occurred while Pastor Peter Benjamin and his church members were praying in their church building during the Holy Lent season. The radicals threatened to break the audio speakers and hurled abuses at the Christians. They alleged that the noise from the prayer meeting was a nuisance. This prompted the pastor to broadcast a live video on social media to expose their intolerance. The Christians maintained that their prayer room was soundproof and that they had a constitutional right to freely profess and practice their faith. Subsequently, on 19 March local police registered an FIR against the radicals based on a complaint filed by the Christians.

On 4 April in Davangere district, Karnataka, religious fanatics barged into a Sunday prayer service and abused the Christians present there. Pastor Lakshman Nayak was leading the prayer when the fanatics confronted and abused him accusing him of converting people to Christianity by forcing and luring them. Subsequently, the mob filed a complaint at the nearby police station, who in turn reprimanded the pastor and told him to stop the prayers in the rented hall.

On 5 April in Halaga village, Belgaum city, Belgaum district, Karnataka, Pastor Sanjay Bhandari was publicly paraded on the streets on allegations of illegally converting people. The pastor and his wife were at the home of his sister when fanatics barged into the house, grabbed him by his shirt collar and dragged him outside, where 50 to 60 other extremists were waiting. Though the pastor explained that it was only a casual visit to his relative's house, the men refused to listen. The mob paraded him a mile to the rented worship hall where he has been leading Sunday worship services for five years. They continued to drag him and hit him, verbally abusing him and Jesus Christ, and pressured him to hail "Jai Shri Ram" while beating him. Once at the church hall they applied kumkum (vermillion) and haldi on him.

On 14 April, Pastor Noah Lingshamppa visited a house where he was invited to a prayer meeting at Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Gulbarga, Karnataka. While the prayer was underway, around 50 people gathered to

oppose the prayer meeting and attacked pastor Noah. They falsely accused the pastor of carrying out religious conversion work. Attackers had come from several surrounding areas where the pastor was invited to a prayer meeting. Pastor sustained internal injuries. The host family and other Christians requested the pastor not to file a police complaint as this could cause further trouble to them from the anti-social elements.

On 21 April, Karnataka High Court rejected a petition seeking orders to take action against the alleged illegal construction of two crosses on a hillock in the Chitradurga region. The petitioner, who claims to be a yoga teacher, stated that gathering before the cross every Sunday causes pollution. In this matter, Chief Justice Abhay Oka and Justice Suraj Govindaraj characterized the petition to be a motivated one and said, on a plain reading, it is noticeable that the petitioner is not a pro-bono litigant. The petitioner evidently wants to target a particular religious group.

On 10 July in Sullia, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, as per a report of a national daily, a Christian boy was prevented from playing cricket on the grounds of a temple in Sullia by a temple official because he was a Christian. The temple committee member Praveen objected to an interfaith group of friends playing cricket on the ground and asked the Christian man to leave the premises.

On 28 Jul in Doddahasala village, Kolar, Karnataka, Pastor Shalem and his wife were brutally assaulted by a mob of radicals wielding iron chains and wooden clubs. After the attack, the pastor became unconscious and was rushed to the hospital for emergency treatment.

On 8 September in Vyas Mallapura Tanda, Bellary, Karnataka, three Christians were physically assaulted by villagers during the village council meeting. Christians then went to the local police station with a complaint, but they were sent back to the village saying that police spoke to village elders, and the matter would be handled and resolved internally in the village.

On 9 September in Vyas Mallapura Tanda, Bellary, Karnataka, villagers were told by the local Hindu temple not to interact with Christian families. The local Christians were denied access to drinking water and were not allowed to use the public thoroughfares.

On 10 September in Kukkundoor village in

Karkala, Udupi, Karnataka, more than 35 right-wing activists entered Pastor Benedict's house and stopped the prayer service, as well as assaulted Christians attending the service. Based on a complaint filed by Church Pastor Benedict, police have registered a case against Hindu right-wing activists on charges of unlawful assembly, rioting, intentional insult, criminal intimidation, and voluntarily causing harm. However, Pastor Benedict has also been booked for deliberate and malicious acts aimed at hurting religious feelings.

On 21 September in Chitradurga, Karnataka, a ruling political party's legislator, Goolihatti Shekar claimed that approximately 20,000 people had converted to Christianity in the district. He added that even his mother had become a Christian and had been forcibly indoctrinated not to wear kumkum or to keep photos of Hindu deities.

On 23 September in Susepalya, Chikkaballapura, Karnataka, hundreds of police and revenue officials arrived at St. Joseph's Church and removed the crosses. They accused Christians of encroaching on government land and erecting crosses without permission. The police removed a 32-meter-long cross from the hilltop and 14 seven-meter-long crosses on the way to the hilltop in a six-hour operation. Parish priest Father Antony Britto Rajan said that the government officials acted arbitrarily without any prior notice. Catholics have been using the space for more than five decades for praying the Way of the Cross, especially during the Lenten season. Also, the priest said the police officials claimed, while carrying out the operations, they were following a state High Court order but refused to show any such order.

On 26 September in Neehalli village, Yadgir, Karnataka, four Christians were arrested for allegedly attempting to coax people into converting to Christianity. According to a local pastor, Sanjay, an eyewitness to the incident, the Christians themselves were attacked by a group of youths. When the police arrived on the scene, the four Christians were arrested and taken to the Central Jail in Gulbarga. Pastor Sanjay said that whatever was mentioned in the police first information report was absolutely nowhere near the truth. In order to fit the narratives of accusations against Christians, it was simply hyped up.

On 3 October in Bijapur, Karnataka, around 10 am, members associated with right-wing groups disrupted a Sunday prayer meeting being led by Pastor Suresh D Naik. The right-wing groups accused the pastor and Christians of carrying out the religious

conversion and brought a false witness-cum-victim who claimed that he was compelled to convert. Members of the right-wing also assaulted the pastor. Subsequently, pastor Suresh filed a complaint with the police. Though police took a copy of the complaint, they did not register the first information report. According to the investigation, one of the right-wing members was involved in criminal activity on the police record. Also, pastor Suresh was previously targeted for his Christian faith, around 4 years ago.

On 10 October in Haliyal, Uttar Kannad, Karnataka, right-wingers disrupted a Sunday prayer meeting. The Sunday prayers are led by an independent pastor, Suresh Durmani. Pastor and Christians were verbally abused by the right-wingers and accused of causing religious conversions. Later, police from Haliyal police station visited the pastor and told him that only family members should participate in the prayer and non-family members should not be invited. Pastor Suresh has been doing ministry work for the last 10 years in the same area and conducts prayer in his rented accommodation. At present, he has around 40 members attending Sunday prayer meetings.

On 10 October in Indi taluka, Bijapur, Karnataka, While Pastor Bhimashankar was conducting his weekly prayer services, 30 members of a right-wing group barged into the prayer meeting and disrupted it. They shouted slogans with the name of a Hindu deity and verbally abused Christians gathered for prayer. Members of the right-wing group wanted to attack the pastor but fortunately, other Christians intervened. Right-wingers called the police from Indi station and made false claims of conversion, while everyone who attended the prayer did so of their own free will.

On 12 October in Sarvesh Tanda, Gulbarga, Karnataka, Pastor John Samson Dinkar who is associated with Indian Pentecostal Mission visited the house of a fellow pastor, named Vijay Rathore. In the evening, around 10 people came with two policemen. They pulled out pastor John and physically assaulted him. The beatings were very severe on the pastor. Later, pastor John and one other Christian were taken to the local police station. Subsequently, Pastor John's father contacted the police with help of other Christian leaders and thus, the pastor was let go without any complaint.

On 15 October in Bangalore, the legislative committee for backward classes and minorities welfare in Karnataka requested detailed information on all churches, priests, and missionaries in the state. The

ruling party's legislator Mr Shekhar asked authorities to submit reports about all churches and their activities at the committee meeting. Specifically, he wants to know whether they're authorised and if they're involved in forced conversions. Minority Christian leaders and community members were vehemently opposed to this legislative committee's decision.

On 17 October in Bairidevarkoppa, Hubli, Dharwad, Karnataka, activists of right-wing groups and non-Christian religious groups protested at the church of Pastor Somappa F Aviradi. There were around 35 to 40 right-wing group members who barged into the premises where prayers were ongoing and made false accusations against pastors and other Christians. Seven Christians were physically assaulted, of whom, one of them was severely injured. Even though police took the pastor's complaint and registered a first information report (FIR) against some of the members of right-wing groups. However, police also registered a first information report against pastor Somappa and other church members with one of the sections being 295A of IPC, among the others, which is a non-bailable section.

On 17 October in Kodagu, Karnataka, a complaint of religious conversion through allurements was filed against Manjunath, a follower of Christ. It was alleged that every Sunday Manjunath invited people from the tribal communities living around Shanivarasanthe to his house and in the name of a prayer meeting, he would allure the participants to become Christians.

On 5 November in Karle village, Belgaum, Karnataka, three Christians visited a fellow Christian's house for prayers. About fifty religious extremists gathered and surrounded the house and snatched worship song books and copies of Bibles from their hands. All Christian members participate in worship at Pastor William Fernandes's church in Belgaum. Police arrived at the scene and took all the three visiting Christians and two members of the house to the police station.

On 7 November in Maratha Colony in Karnataka's Belagavi district on Sunday, right-wing members laid siege to a community hall alleging mass religious conversion. They claimed that as many as 200 people, including women and children from rural backgrounds, were put up in the building on the pretext of prayers for religious conversion. However, in the community hall, Sunday prayers were a routine occurrence and are led by Pastor Lemu Cherian.

Pastors and local Christians confirm that the prayers have been going on peacefully for years, and whoever participates in prayer does so out of their own free will. Pastor Cherian denied the allegations of religious conversion and said such meetings are regularly held on Sundays. The pastor had informed the local police about this meeting and had not forced anyone to come here. Pastor maintains his stand that they are not doing anything against the law. And said, we are only practising the rituals of our religion, which is our fundamental right. Before the police reached the spot, members of the right-wing group locked the Christians in a room. Following the incident, about 20 policemen have been stationed near the building as a precautionary measure. The police themselves acknowledged that prayer used to be offered every Sunday at the spot. A first information report, with one of the sections being 295A, was registered against the pastor who was conducting the prayers. Pastor Cherian is out on bail. As per subsequent development, six other Christians were issued notice by the police to present themselves at the Tialkwadi police station.

On 7 November in Aladakatti Village, Haveri Taluk, Haveri District, Karnataka, around 70 people influenced by right-wing ideology came to Pastor Chandrakant B K's church and stood at the entrance to oppose the ongoing prayer. Out of 70 people who opposed the prayer meeting, around 30-35 entered the prayer hall and told Christians to stop the prayer meeting. According to them, the pastor did not have the necessary permission for the event. To stop the ongoing prayer, the attackers physically assaulted the associate pastor, Ganesh F. Yeligar, of the Church. Pastor Chandrakant approached the local police station and gave a complaint with the names of 9 individuals whom the pastor could identify.

On 14 November in Rajankunte, Bangalore, Karnataka, during a prayer service, the right-wing group attacked Rev. John N.'s church. The right-wing members barged in and disrupted proceedings. Rev. John was attacked and members of the congregation were abused. Additionally, they damaged furniture and vehicles belonging to Christians.

On 21 November in Savnur, Haveri, Karnataka, Pastor Ramesh and his wife Sunita Mercy were physically assaulted by 50 religious extremists. Subsequently, police were called from Savnur police station and false accusations were levelled at the pastor and his wife of religious conversion.

On 22 November in Belgaum, Karnataka,

the city police chief said community halls, residential buildings, and other establishments should not be rented out for routine prayers. Pastor Johnson Thomas, president of the district pastors fellowship, said the police have told 25 prayer groups not to pray in halls.

On 27 November in Chitradurga, Karnataka, the Tahsildar along with the Circle Inspector and his staff visited two villages, one in SrirampuraHobli and another in MadadakereHobli. They interrogated people who had accepted Christianity. However, the inquiry showed there was no substance in the allegations as the families confirmed they had converted to the Christian faith of their own volition. According to the tahsildar, 42 families had converted to Christianity for their own mental well-being. Area MLA Gulihatti Shekhar of Hosadurga raised this issue during the legislative session alleging that his mother was among the 20,000 people who had converted to Christianity in his constituency.

On 28 November in Belur, Hassan, Karnataka, around 25 activists of a right-wing group barged into the church of Pastor Suresh Paul when a prayer meeting was going on and disrupted it. Following a complaint from the members of the church, the Belur police had registered a first information report against five people of the right-wing group on charges of breach of peace.

On 28 November in Bankapura, Haveri, Karnataka, Uma Ingle wife of Pastor M Ingle, and two other Christian ladies were on their way for a prayer meeting when 4 men stopped them. The two men of the four were policemen and they brought the women to the Bankapura police station straightaway refusing them to participate in prayer. At the station, there were around 12 to 15 people who had submitted a memorandum to the police station accusing pastor Praveen and his wife of religious conversion. Two other women were also questioned by police as to why they go to church and how they were converted. They responded by saying it is out of their own free will they come to participate in prayer, and nobody has forced or allured them to convert. Then the pastor's wife was forced to sign a document, whose contents were not made known to her and she was threatened if she did not sign the document then she and her husband would be booked for not following covid appropriate behaviours.

On 11 December, in Srinivasapura, Kolar, Karnataka, Members of right-wing groups have set fire to Christian religious books alleging religious conversions by the churches. The right-wingers also

assaulted four members of Christianity.

On 19 December in Nagarbhavi, Bangalore, Karnataka, the church of Pastor Ramesh was attacked by religious extremists. Heaven Kingdom Church is the name of the church, and the attack occurred while Sunday prayers were taking place. However, due to extremists barging into the church, the Sunday prayer was disrupted.

On 22 December in Chikkaballapur, Karnataka, a 150-year-old church was allegedly vandalised by unidentified, in the wee hours. St Antony's statue was vandalized at St Joseph's church, 65 km from Bengaluru, in the Susaipalaya area. During the morning prayer service, a parishioner found the broken statue and informed the parish priest. There was a large stone found near the broken statue of St Antony.

On 23 December in Mandya, Karnataka, Christmas celebrations at a school were interrupted by right-wingers who forced their way in and threatened the school authorities. The headmistress of Nirmala English High School and College said the school has been organising Christmas celebrations every year. But due to covid induced restrictions, it was decided to call it off. At the insistence of the students, a small celebration was organised. The students had voluntarily pooled in money and ordered a cake, to which one of the parents has objected. Hence, the parent informed the right-wing groups that the school was "preaching Christianity" and celebrating Christmas but not Hindu festivals.

On 25 December in Ilkal, Bagalkot, Karnataka, members of a right-wing group barged into a shed where a Christmas celebration by an independent church was underway. The right-wingers falsely accused the congregation of unlawful religious conversion.

On 26 December in Bagalkot, Karnataka, a false complaint filed by a right-wing group and a one-man inspection by the education department led to the closure of St Paul's Higher Primary School. The education department's order read, "Some members of the school management are converting students and parents to Christianity." Moreover, the order accused the school of celebrating Christmas in violation of the rules and serving meat in classes. According to the school administration, the Christmas celebration was not organized by the school. Instead, it was organized by an independent church at the same location. There is no church or Christian missionary running the school.

It is run by private individuals.

On 28 December in Bilidevalaya village, Tumakuru, Karnataka, the right-wingers visited a Christian family's house and questioned them about their religious practices. Right-wingers asked the women in the house why they weren't wearing Sindoor. The women replied that they were Hindus but practised Christian beliefs. An argument between the two parties prompted the call to the police. On 30 December, the Police filed a complaint of intimidation and assault against five right-wing members who intended to disrupt a Christian gathering.

MADHYA PRADESH

On 4 January in Chituhula police station area, Budhar, Shahdol district, Madhya Pradesh, religious radicals barged into a Christian program that was taking place at Devgan DasKol's house. The radicals created a ruckus alleging that Das was engaged in a religious conversion racket. They called local police, who escorted Das to the police station. However, for want of evidence to verify the accusations, police instead booked him for violation of the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020.

On 7 January in Amgawan village, Jaithari police station, Annupur district, Madhya Pradesh, a Christian wedding ceremony was disrupted by police personnel who cited complaints from a leading political party that a religious conversion activity was underway at the venue. Ram Ratan, the groom, and two others were taken into custody. They were later let go after they filed their statements before the Sub Divisional Magistrate. The wedding ceremony had taken place at the house of Urmila Rautel, a school teacher. On 8 January Rautel received a notice from her school administration wanting her response regarding allegations that she was involved in religious conversion activities. Subsequently, on 12 January she received another legal notice from the local municipal corporation accusing her of illegally constructing certain parts of her house. Allegedly, all these developments were at the behest of the political party.

On 13 January in KuraiNagar, Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh, Pastor NamdeoNeti and Ashok Yadav were booked under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Ordinance, 2020 for engaging in religious conversion work by alluring local people. The

incident occurred while the two were in a Christian prayer meeting. Acting upon a complaint filed by religious radicals, police arrived at the meeting venue and arrested them. They were later granted bail on 18 January.

On 14 January in Temachi village, Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh, twelve Christians were taken into police custody. The incident occurred at around 10.30 am when a group of Christians had gathered for a baptism program in Temachi. Eight among the arrested, including evangelist Xaviour Antony, were Christians who had arrived from Bharuch district in Gujarat. While the congregation were singing religious songs, a group of religious radicals gathered around the prayer hall and launched an attack, alleging that religious conversions were in progress. Soon a group of police officers came in three vehicles, filmed a few videos, and took the twelve people into custody, which included the evangelist, his wife Sheeba, and their son Boaz and daughter Feba. They were booked under section 188 of IPC and were granted bail the next day.

On 17 January in Ambua village, Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh, police personnel barged into a prayer meeting conducted by Pastor Mukesh Davar and took him to the Ambua police station. Reportedly some religious extremists had filed a complaint that the pastor was involved in illegal religious conversion activities. After many Christian advocacy organizations called up the station and requested a fair investigation, the pastor was let go without any charges.

On 18 January in Juna Bilwa village, Barwani district, Madhya Pradesh, villagers convened a meeting alleging that religious conversions were being carried out in the region by Christian missionaries. They were particularly agitated by Pastor Kiran Badole who has been conducting prayers in the village since 2004 and around 100 to 150 Christians gather regularly. The meeting was attended by local press reporters. The villagers accused the Christians of eroding their tribal traditions and customs.

On 20 January in Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh, a mob of 50 religious extremists physically assaulted Pastor Ramfal Yadav and other Christians while they were busy in the construction of a church building. They stopped the Christians working at the site from taking water from the nearby public well, threatened them, and physically attacked them for their Christian beliefs. Many women and children sustained injuries in the attack.

On 20 January in Madhopura village, Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh, a radical mob along with police personnel barged into BaluMinama's house and disrupted a Christian prayer meeting. They threatened Pastor HatesinghGundiya, Pastor Gulab Singh, and Kamlesh Bamaniya to stop coming to the village and holding prayer services. Police also confiscated Pastor Hatesingh's Aadhaar Card.

On 26 January at Bhanwarkuan police station, Indore district, Madhya Pradesh, religious radicals barged into the Sat Prakashan Communication Centre and disrupted a Christian prayer meeting. The radicals manhandled the Christians and raised provocative slogans. Police arrived at the spot, and instead of arresting the assailants, registered a case against 11 Christians who were charged under the M.P. Freedom of Religion Act. Rakesh Kaushal and Rani Kaushal, a couple, residents of NayapuraGujarkhedaMahu, are two among the eleven accused.

On 26 Jan in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, Kamlesh Malviya, a leader of a right-wing nationalist group, made an announcement that Christianity should not be propagated and should be opposed. According to the Union of Catholic Asian News (UCAN), radical nationalists have stepped up a Christian hate campaign in Madhya Pradesh state. They are calling on local residents of the district to disassociate themselves from Christians and demanding Christians convert to Hinduism to avoid hostility.

On 27 January in Lalbarra tehsil, Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh, religious radicals disrupted a Christian prayer meeting and called local police. Police took Chattarsingh Katre, MahendraNagdeve and Ulghanj Nathan into custody and filed an FIR false charging them with involvement in religious conversion work.

On 31 January in Mehrapipriya village, under Kanhiwada police station, Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh, a religious radical abused and threatened Chitra Rekha, a Christian, because of her religious beliefs. When Rekha approached local police for help, instead of confronting the assailant, they reprimanded her for engaging in religious conversion activities. On the next day, Rekha was again threatened by the village chief of expulsion from her village when she denied giving monetary donations to the village council for a puja.

On 4 February in Betul district, Madhya

Pradesh, Abdul Raheem, a Christian, was arrested by Nishatpura police. Police received a complaint from a certain Mr. Ansul Kamra and booked Raheem under IPC sections 327, 294, 323, 506 and 34. Raheem has been involved in Christian ministry in the locality.

On 6 February in Lakhnadon town, Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh, two missionaries of the India Evangelical Mission were falsely accused of involving in religious conversion activities during a wedding. The duo had been invited as guests to the wedding by a Christian family but had to leave midway after some religious extremists confronted them. Subsequently police arrived at the venue searching for the missionaries and took the Christian families to the nearby police station. The Christians were interrogated the entire night about the whereabouts of the missionaries.

On 7 February in Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh, a mob of religious extremists forcefully barged into a church. Around 25 people had gathered there for Sunday prayers. The mob threatened and physically assaulted the men and women. The assailants lodged a complaint at the Udaigarh police station alleging that people were being lured to Christianity in the church. Police detained all 25 Christians, interrogated them and eventually registered an FIR against Pastor Dilip Vasuniya, under sections 3 and 5 of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Ordinance, 2020. The pastor was sent to jail. Subsequently, on 10 February, the pastor was released on bail.

On 10 February in Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh, during a press conference, Nagar Singh Chauhan, a former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), remarked that they would continue to oppose Christian missionary activities in the district. He accused Christian missionaries of alluring and converting people. He also falsely claimed that the current MLA of Jobat city, KalawatiBhuria, was protecting Christian missionaries who carry out religious conversions.

On 16 February, in Mangadh village, Dindori, Madhya Pradesh, local villagers passed a diktat that none of the Christians in the village were allowed to access drinking water or walk on the village roads. They fixed thick barbed wires around the village's public tube well in order to prohibit the Christian families from collecting water. They also warned that if anyone did not oblige, they would be beaten up. Pastor Arjun Yadav conducts Christian

prayers in the village and has been seeing a growing rise in cases of persecution and opposition towards the Christian community. The threats from religious extremists have allegedly resulted in the conversion of many Christians into the majority faith, including Gyan Singh, Santosh Maravi, and their family members. On the day of the incident, villagers dropped stones in Dhan Singh Marawi's water well, urinated, and dropped human faeces in it in order to stop the Christians from having access to water.

On 19 February in Khajuraho town, Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, Sister Bhagya, the principal of Sacred Heart Convent High School was booked under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Ordinance 2020 on a complaint by a female teacher who accused her of harassment and attempts to force her to convert her religion. Khajuraho police registered the case after Ruby Singh, who worked as a librarian at the school, alleged that the Principal had lured her with more salary and a regularized job if she adopted Christianity. Singh alleged that when she refused, the Principal fired her from the job and stopped paying her salary. She has been working at the school on a contractual basis for the past four years. The school administration denied the charges and said that after Ruby Singh was removed from her job, she put the allegation. The school had asked for police protection from Ruby Singh on 17 February.

On 23 February in Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh, villagers of Mangadh and Amadongri villages, seemingly incited by religious extremists, filed a police complaint against some Christians alleging that they were being induced to convert. The complaint was submitted at the office of the Superintendent of Police, Dindori.

On 10 March in Pushprajgarh tehsil, Anuppur district, Madhya Pradesh, a group of people vandalized a property belonging to Prahlad Singh, a Christian. Prahlad has been holding on to Christian beliefs for the past two years and this has not gone well with his brother, Sangram Singh, who has opposed his participation in Christian prayers and Bible study. On the day of the incident the vandals, led by Sangram, damaged Prahlad's house while he was not at home.

On 11 March in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the Union General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Milind Parande, while interacting with media, claimed that Christian missionaries in Dhar and Jhabua districts were converting the tribal populace with allurements and lies. He said that a list of 56 priests

active in the area has been drawn by his organization and would be handed over to the Collectors of the respective districts for appropriate action. Parande made the statements at the World Dialogue Center. He also congratulated the state government for implementing the Freedom of Religion Act 2021 in Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 March in Mandya District, Madhya Pradesh, a 76-year-old pastor, Peter NyanaRatnappa, was harassed and publicly ridiculed by religious radicals as he attempted to lead Sunday worship in K.R. Peta Town. Pastor Peter, who travels almost 80 miles to lead worship at New India Church of God, was attacked by a group of 10 radicals who forced their way into the church.

On 30 March evening in Bajag tehsil, Dindori, Madhya Pradesh, Ravindra Yadav, a Christian, was threatened and attacked by the Sarpanch of a village and others, who met him in an inebriated condition on the street. Yadav has faced opposition due to his Christian beliefs in the past too. In spite of their intention to cause bodily harm to Yadav, he was able to escape to safety. The next day the assailants filed a complaint against Yadav alleging that he had outraged the modesty of a girl from the village. Subsequently, advocacy groups contacted the S.P. at Dindori and ASI Parsetji (Bajag police station) appealing for a fair investigation. Eventually, after recording statements from the Sarpanch and Yadav, the police let Yadav go without filing any charges.

On the night of 4 April in Pipartara gram panchayat, Shahdol district, Madhya Pradesh, local police accompanied with 4 to 5 other individuals, disrupted a Christian prayer meeting and interrogated the nine Christians who had gathered for the prayer. Subsequently, they arrested SamaruDeenBaiga and took him to the Budhar police station since he was not a resident of the village. Baiga was kept overnight at the station due to the unavailability of the Thana Incharge at the station. He was released at 11 am the next day without any charges against him.

On 4 April in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, Christian Rajendra Dwivedi was arrested after he compared the salvation of Jesus to the revelations in the Vedas and Upanishads, both sacred texts for a particular community. He was arrested and charged with hurting religious sentiments on Easter Sunday. Local Christian leaders claim this is just the most recent case of religiously motivated arrests and harassment in the state. The president of the Global Council of Indian

Christians told a Christian media that the accusation of hurting religious sentiments is the new mantra for right-wing nationalist forces.

On 4 April in Rangwasa village, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, a radical mob barged into a Christian's home where Pastor Manu Damor, 35, was leading five families in Christian prayers. The pastor called the police for protection when the irate mob began beating down the door and tore through the roof of the house. Betma police detained the pastor and his family at the police station assuring them that they would be allowed to go home after their first night of detention. However, they were later charged under sections 3 and 5 of Madhya Pradesh Anti-Conversion Law upon pressure. Damore's wife was released from Indore district jail on April 12. Meanwhile Pastor Damor remained in Depalpur jail.

On 10 April in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh, Santosh Chauhan, a Christian evangelist, was taken into police custody based on a complaint filed against him by a major religious radical outfit. He was arrested on charges of converting people by alluring them. Chauhan originally hails from Bihar and has been living in Rewa for the past two years.

On the morning of 26 April in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, in one of its first kind of incidents, unknown miscreants put a garland of shoes on the Cross located in Church of North India property at Kachhari chowk. The matter was reported to the police who are investigating the matter.

On 6 May in Ghugri village, Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh, a group of villagers hindered Ram Lal from repairing his house since he and his family had adopted the Christian faith. The perpetrators - Rajesh Partey, Ram Prasad Partey, and Anup Partey - warned him that he and his family would be ostracized from the village if they did not desist from practising the Christian faith. The victims have been facing such threats and harassment constantly. Ram Lal and his family are residents of the village for two generations.

On 2 June in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, a family dispute over the burial rites of a deceased relative escalated to a criminal investigation under the state's anti-conversion law. Dharmendra Pratap Singh, who converted to Christianity, attempted to bury his deceased mother in a cemetery, when his niece, Shweta Suman, stopped Singh from burying his mother and instead cremated the remains. Subsequently, she

lodged a complaint with police claiming her uncle attempted to forcefully convert his mother to Christianity. Suman equated the attempt of burying her relative's remains with an attempt to forcefully convert the bodily remains to Christianity.

On 1 July in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, a group of sixteen Christians, including Evangelist Shaji Varghese and Evangelist Subhash Jamre, were taken to a local police station from their prayer meeting. They were accused of carrying out religious conversions and not adhering to Covid guidelines. Since there was no substantial evidence of religious conversion, 13 Christians were booked under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

On 10 July in village Sukhpuri, Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh, Pastor Balwant and sister Aparana Masih had gone for prayer in the evening at a fellow Christian Gorelal residence. Towards the end of the prayer, a group of 15 to 20 religious extremists came outside the home of Gorelal and started shouting, "Step outside" in order to disrupt the prayer meeting. Following prayer, Christians noticed that some people from the village were standing in a herd. First, the extremist talked to Gorelal and his family, then they called the pastor and sister outside and said, you cannot enter our village.

On 18 July in Jamui, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, a Christian prayer meeting was being held at Heeralal Baiga's house. Around four right-wing group members showed up in the middle of prayers, asked what they were doing, and took photos and videos of the proceedings. Thirty minutes later, another group of around twelve members of the right-wing group showed up and began arguing with Heeralal and other Christians about the prayer meeting. Among the Christian literature taken away were copies of the Bible, Christian songbooks, and copies of the New Testament by the right-wingers. After the police came, they had taken three Christians including Heeralal to the police station. The right-wingers pressed the police to register a case of religious conversion against the three accused.

On 16 Jul in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, Sunil, Rajendra, and two other Christians were falsely accused of religious conversion activity and a first information report was filed against them. All of them were arrested after that.

On 17 Jul in Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh, two

Christians, Geeta Dixit and Rajeshwar, had attended a prayer meeting with a family. As they were about to leave after finishing the prayer, they were beaten up by the villagers because they had conducted a prayer.

On 13 August in Umaria, Madhya Pradesh, two Christians, Santosh Kol and Prabhu Baiga, were falsely accused of religious conversion work and taken to the police station by religious extremists.

On 15 Aug in Sendhwa, in Barwani, Madhya Pradesh, Christians from the Sendhwa Diocese were asked to meet with Patels and village council leaders who oppose Christian evangelism in the region. When Christians visited, they were threatened with being socially boycotted if they didn't renounce their Christian faith. In response to their desire to remain faithful to their faith, Christians were physically assaulted and enraged.

On 26 Aug in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, the office of the Additional Superintendent of Police (SP), Jhabua, issued a letter bearing serial number 568 directing in response to the campaign of a right-wing organization. Direction issued by the Additional SP office essentially gave credibility to the right-wing group's campaign to stop so-called religious conversions in the district and illegal churches and prayer houses built in the area. Further, it was mentioned, on 27 August, the campaign of right-wingers was proposed to start by gathering, along with the administration, in Kalyanpura Model School premises at 10:00 am to terminate the so-called illegal churches and prayer houses.

On 5 September in Satna, Madhya Pradesh, Sunday morning. Pastor Amar Singh and Pastor Vinod Kumar were falsely accused of religious conversion by a right-wing group and filed a first information report at Amarpathan Police station.

On 8 September, the Tehsildar of Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh has sent notices to dozens of church pastors and church fathers. In accordance with the notice, church pastors and church fathers were required to appear at the Tehsildar's office on 22 September. They were supposed to explain in writing whether they were allured or forced to accept Christianity. Additionally, they have been asked to provide copies of their ordination certificates as pastors and fathers, and documents related to their own religious conversions. On 22 September, when some pastors appeared at the Tehsildar office, they were

interrogated regarding if they had the proper proof to say that they were Christians. Some of them were further questioned about why they conducted house prayers and convert people to Christianity.

On 8 September from Ambadigaon, Bichua block, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, the media reported that the village council had called for a village meeting a few days ago. The village council had ruled that families converting to Christianity would be socially boycotted. No one will participate in their programs or have anything to do with them.

On September 17, the Auxiliary Bishop Paul Muniya of the Protestant Shalom Church in Jhabua led a delegation to the tehsildar. There, he submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India. In the Memorandum Christians raised concerns over right-wingers having set a deadline to demolish churches on 26 September, claiming they are illegal church structures and carry out religious conversion activities in the district.

On 19 September in Bhikagaon, Khargone, Madhya Pradesh, four Christians, Ramesh, Sunil, Bhagirath, and Totaram, were accused of forcible religious conversion. Christians have built a prayer hall so that they can gather and pray together. Villagers, who oppose them, filed a motivated police complaint alleging that religious conversions were being carried out by the Christians.

On 3 October in Otta village, Khargone, Madhya Pradesh, Evangelist Dinesh Chouhan conducted a Sunday worship service. 12 members of a right-wing group came to the prayer venue and started to argue with Christians. The right-wingers took Dinesh to a local police station and threatened all Christians to stop attending prayer meetings. The police interrogated the evangelist at the station, but let him go. The police told him that they would call him and that he should come for an investigation.

On 3 October in Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, right-wing extremists disrupted Christian worship and accused Christians of converting people to Christianity. An evangelist named Prerit was leading the prayer meeting.

On 27 September in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, Evangelist Dashrath Ahirwar was attacked and accused of religious conversion in his own house by religious extremists. Subsequently, even local

police got involved, but unfortunately, they also harassed the pastor and accused him of carrying out conversion activity in the area and told him to vacate that place by 5 October.

On 17 October in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, a Member of Legislative Assembly Rameshwar Sharma made a statement that demeaned the Christian faith and hurt the sentiments of the Christian community. Mr Sharma was addressing the Dussehra festival committee where he made a controversial statement. His comment was delivered with a mudslinging tone, warning his listeners to stay away from "Fathers" because they cause obstacles in visiting Hindu temples and ruin them.

On 19 October in Umrikhurd (Pandhurna) village, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, Pastor Goutam Kunde had visited a Christian family for a prayer meeting where he was surrounded by about 30 religious extremists who came to oppose the prayer meeting. Extremists were raising anti-Christian slogans and making noise to disrupt ongoing prayer.

On 21 October in Bhainsa Naka village, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, Christians Ramesh Masih and Sakhi Masih and Nathu Masih, were falsely accused of criminal intimidation and forceful religious conversion.

On 24 October in Bairasiya, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Pastor Santkumar Yadav was threatened by radical elements on account of conducting a Christian prayer meeting at his residence. They told him not to conduct prayer meetings at his home and warned him to vacate the same within seven days. The pastor was harassed and threatened a few days ago as well.

On 24 October in Umradoh village Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, Prem Lal, a Christian, was reportedly beaten by anti-social elements because of his faith.

On 25 October in Satna, Madhya Pradesh, Right-wing groups' members served a 15-day ultimatum to Catholic schools to install on the campus an idol of Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. In Satna district headquarters, thirty right-wing groups representatives met Father Augustine Chittuparambil, manager of Christ Jyoti Senior Secondary School, to make the demand.

On 30 October in Satna, Madhya Pradesh, prayers were still underway led by Pastor Biju Thomas,

when the members of several organizations, inclined to right-wing ideology, tried to disrupt the ongoing prayer meeting. However, an adequate police force had reached the area, allowing worship to continue.

On 6 Nov in Shahgarh, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, the Christian family of Varsha was sleeping. However, suddenly people came to their home and argued that they did not believe in Diwali and light lamps. They began abusing them and tried to molest some of their female members.

On 8 November in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, a team of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) made a surprise of a Catholic girls' hostel. The team searched the dormitories and bags of the girl children without a female official present. Additionally, a Bible was found in the possession of Christian students, and the hostel was accused of encouraging religious conversion. The following day another team inspected the hostel. Students informed, they were staying in the hostel of their own free will because they did not have the means to attend school. In a letter dated 9 November, the commission instructed the district collector to send the students to their homes, alleging some serious lapses in their care at the hostel. But the students testified that they were well taken care of, with proper food and study facilities.

On 10 November in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, a false allegation of religious conversion was made at Thandla police station against eight people. These include pastors, one of whom is John Mathew, and Christians who were praying. Following that, a first information report was filed against them. The police registered the case following a complaint filed by a person linked to a right-wing group.

On 11 November in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) of Thandla ordered the Sub-Tehsildar, the Station House Officer of Thandla Police Station, and the Officer in Charge of Khawwasa Police Post to take action against Christian prayer gatherings. The order came following a memorandum submitted by the district head of a right-wing group. Officers must take action against those who organize prayers without the permission of the district collector, whether they're weekly or collective. SDO's order is very unfortunate, and it violates every citizen's right to religious freedom.

On 24 November in Khargone, Madhya

Pradesh, Pastor Vijay Badole Village and a female, Manju, were taken into police custody for performing a water baptism ceremony on those who wanted to adopt Christianity. Both were arrested and taken to the Oon police station and were booked under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act.

On 6 December in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, several hundred right-wing activists staged a ruckus and vandalized St Joseph's School at Ganjbasoda. It all started after a picture of eight Catholic children participating in a Holy Communion service was made viral. The right-wing activists falsely claimed that the girls were being converted. On investigation, it was found that those children were not even students of that school. They had studied elsewhere and were born Catholic; they were participating in their religious rituals. Police have registered a case of rioting against unidentified persons and detained four persons.

On 10 December in Nawalpura Village, Sendhawa Tehsil, Barwani District, Madhya Pradesh, Pastor AnarJamre and his wife were booked with false accusations of targeting tribals and luring them to convert to Christianity. They were falsely accused of offering free education, free medicine, employment and other facilities in order to convert them to Christianity. They were booked under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act in Barwani.

On 13 December in Rajpur, Barwani, Madhya Pradesh, Pastor Anar Singh Jamre was given a notice by the Sub Divisional Officer (SDO) to demolish his house church saying the structure was built without the due permission of authorities. As per the notice, the pastor was called to the SDO office. As per Pastor, at the time of purchase, he was provided with a notarized document by the previous owner of the house. Pastor strongly feels that there is a conspiracy by the local antichristian elements who have opposed the Christian ministry work in the region carried out by him.

On 19 December in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, a right-wing organization's (VHP) Union General Secretary accused the Christian community of being involved in anti-national activity by carrying out religious conversion activity. The comment came at a press conference organized by VHP where Christian missionaries were also accused of conversion through greed, fear or deceit.

On 24 December in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh, the effigy of Pope Francis was burnt in the

Koteshwar crematorium of Lanji by former Member Legislative Assembly Kishore Samrite. In this regard, while interacting with the press, Mr Samrite told under the guise of education and medicine, they do the work of religious conversion.

On 26 December in Bicholi village in Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh, police arrested Father Jam Singh Dindore, pastor Ansingh Ninama and a person named Mangu Mehtab Bhuriya. They were accused of converting tribals to Christianity. A first information report was registered based on a complaint at the Kalyanpura police station. The truth, however, according to Christians, is that whoever comes to the weekly prayer meeting, they do so out of their own free will. In the prayer meeting, the father or pastor just reads from the Bible and preaches from it.

On 27 December in the Lakhwaria village, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, a Christmas program was organized by Pastor Manne Lal. About the program, the pastor informed the concerned government departments a week ago. When the program started, only an hour later the local police came and stopped the Christmas program, telling the pastor and Christians that they could not host the event.

On 31 Dec in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, a prayer meeting was organized to celebrate the new year, in which some 25 to 30 religious extremists attacked the ceremony at around 9:00 pm. They had iron rods and sticks and, in this attack, Church Pastor Manish had sustained a lot of injuries and was admitted to the hospital. Seeing the seriousness of the matter, Pastor's wife gave an application to the local police but unfortunately, the local police started threatening the Pastor and his wife while accusing them of carrying out the religious conversion.

MAHARASHTRA

On 11 January in Akola taluk, Ahmadnagar district, Maharashtra, religious radicals confronted Pastor Gorakh Sable at a weekly market while he was selling sarees. The pastor sells garments in order to earn his livelihood. The radicals threatened and harassed him, accusing him of converting people to Christianity through inducement. They demanded that he wind up his stall and leave the market. Soon police personnel showed up and took both the parties to the police station. Police officials favoured the pastor stating that

he could not be denied the right to sell the garments since he was not forcing anyone to accept Christianity. Eventually, both the parties were let go without charges.

On 14 January in the Taluka Anjangaon S, Amravati, Maharashtra, pastor Vijiel Aghamkar was falsely accused of carrying out religious conversion work by the local villagers. Pastor Vijiel is doing ministry work in Hantoda village and also participates in social work along with other Christian groups in and around the village.

On 22 January in Bangaon village, Ner tehsil, Yavatmal district, Maharashtra, an FIR was registered against Pastor Sanjay Diwe, his wife Asmita Diwe, Gaurav, and Bhushan. The four had been invited to the home of a Christian family for a prayer meeting. During the prayer, an observer recorded a video of the program and lodged a police complaint alleging that the Christians were promoting enmity between religious communities. The FIR was filed under sections 153A, 295A, 143, and 188 of IPC.

On 22 January in Shivaji Nagar, Nagpur, Maharashtra, a Christian woman, Chitra Banjari, was terminated from her job on account of her Christian faith and for talking about her religious beliefs in the workplace. Chitra had shared about Jesus Christ with one of her colleagues and this led the colleague to take part in Sunday prayers at Chitra's church. Subsequently, when the colleague elaborated on her experiences with other colleagues at her workplace, Chitra Banjari was summoned by the management and dismissed from service.

On 2 February in Jam village, Wardha district, Maharashtra, a Christian prayer meeting was disrupted by an irate businessman. Ramkumar Suryawanshi, a member of the Christ Church located in Hinganghat, and working in a textile company was in a prayer meeting at his home with a few pastors and family members, when the manager of his company barged in. He demanded that the meeting be stopped immediately and accused Suryawanshi of converting people. He told him to vacate the staff residence and resign from his job at the company. After meeting the company President the next day he was able to save his job but had to vacate the staff quarter.

On 8 February in Yerwada, Pune district, Maharashtra, Pastor Murli Nair was summoned at the Yerwada police station based on a complaint filed by

one Mr Shinde. The pastor resides at an apartment in Navi Khadki. Shinde, who lives adjacent to his flat, had been constantly complaining about the noise from prayer meetings that take place at the pastor's house. The pastor had been refuting the accusations stating that no other flat owner had complained about any noise. On 5 February, Shinde had an argument with the pastor's son, which prompted him to file a police complaint that he had been physically attacked by the pastor and his family. When the pastor met Yerwada police on 8 February and requested that police file a counter-complaint, they told him that since they had received Shinde's complaint as a Nominal Complaint (NC), they were unable to register a counter-complaint until the NC was resolved.

On 13 February in Harsul village, Trimbak taluk, Nashik district, Maharashtra, villagers opposed a funeral ceremony that was to be conducted as per Christian rites. Pintu Rajaram Garel, a Christian, had lost his two-year-old son due to an accident. The local villagers demanded that Pintu make monetary donations for their religious activities if he intended to bury his child. Eventually, another Christian man offered his land for burial.

On 13 February in Besa village, Nagpur Rural Tehsil, Nagpur district, Maharashtra, Chitra Banjari and two other Christians, were confronted by local villagers who accused them of converting people to Christianity. The trio was in the house of a Christian family when a man barged into the house and filmed their discussions on his phone. He accused them of religious conversions, gathered the local villagers, and tried to hand them over to local police. However, they were able to leave the place safely.

On 21 February in Basmath city, Hingoli district, Maharashtra, a police complaint was filed against Pastor Prakash Wadekar. Four days prior to the incident a group of locals had approached the pastor to rent his Prayer Hall for a wedding. The pastor had turned down their demand saying that the hall is only used for prayer meetings. On 21 February the irate group of locals approached the local police station and the District Collector and filed a complaint that in the guise of conducting prayer meetings the pastor was using the hall for practising witchcraft and tricking innocent people in the area.

On 4 March in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra, sources at the Sironcha Mission of Methodist Church of India reported about illegal construction of a religious shrine taking place in their

property. When the caretaker of the property objected to the construction and informed them that the land was owned by the Methodist Church, the builders responded with claims that it was free land. However, they stopped the construction after the caretaker warned them of legal and police action.

On 5 April in Dudha village, Jalna, Maharashtra, Pastor Anthony Londe's house was visited by some villagers from the banjara community. They started threatening him saying that you are converting our people to Christianity. After that, they took him to the local police station. At the police station, Pastor was asked to sign a document, but he was not shown the written content and then told to leave.

On 24 May in taluk Katol, Nagpur, Maharashtra, VishanPardhi, a Christian, was conducting prayer in his home. One of the neighbours went to Katol police station who was opposing the prayer and made a complaint against the prayer activity. The police called Vishan to the police station, took his statement, however, thankfully, he told him that he could have the prayer at his home.

On 29 May in Dudha village, Jalna, Maharashtra, Pastor Anthony Londe's house was visited by the villagers who accused him of religious conversions and threatened him to leave the village. Also, in the first week of April, the pastor was harassed and threatened by the villagers. Eventually, the pastor had to leave the village and move to the Aurangabad district.

On 4 July 2021 in Sanan Village, Bhushawal taluka, Jalgaon district Maharashtra, a group of Christians was threatened and warned by radical elements. Approximately a week later, around 25 people showed up at the home of local pastor Prakash Pawra with the intent of physically assaulting him for holding prayer meetings in the area. However, one local Christian who learnt about their arrival informed the pastor in advance over the phone so that the pastor could leave home for a secure place. But the pastor's wife and children stayed back at home, since the attackers could not find the pastor at home, they threatened the pastor's wife saying we are leaving, for now, if we find him, we will thrash him.

On 9 July in Buldhana, a false complaint was submitted against Pastor Shashikant Malage stating that he is carrying out religious conversion activities and has built a house under a government scheme using

forged documents.

On 2 August in Omerga, Osmanbad, Maharashtra, due to some difficulties in their family, a Christian family invited Pastor Datta Birajdar home for a prayer meeting. Instead of praying at home, the Christian family organized a prayer meeting in the front courtyard of their house. Some unknown onlookers recorded the video of the prayer and handed it over to the police, accusing some religious activity is going on that can cause public disharmony. Therefore, on 4 August, the police took two local Christians into custody, Tulshiram Ibhute and Babu Mulay, living near the family premises and took them to the Omerga police station. They were interrogated about the prayer meeting and were physically assaulted by police personnel for accepting Christianity.

On 22 Aug in Mona village, Vaishali, members of the local church were forced to renounce their faith during the village council meeting. Christians were warned saying that those who do not comply may face a social boycott.

On 24 October, in Kodsepalli village, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, Shital Talandi and other Christians namely Jogi, Nemi, Vanita, Sonu were badly beaten up and were forced to renounced Christians by religious extremists.

On 27 October in Nagpur, Maharashtra, right-wing activists accused a Christian prayer convention of religious conversion activity and threatened to stop it. The convention was being organised by The Pentecostal Mission at Kamptee Road, Nagpur. It was taking place from 28 October to 31 October. Police provided protection as Christians sought their help and the convention could carry on peacefully.

On 16 November in Dodamarg, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, unknown persons damaged the crucifix, tables, chairs, and glasses at a chapel under the Belgaum diocese. Father Santosh Lopes, the parish priest, and local Christians filed a complaint with the local police.

ODISHA

On 10 January in Durgapur village, under Badasahi tehsil, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha, Pastor

Mangal Marandi informed that his church members were hindered from conducting a prayer service at the house of Rabindra Hansda. Local villagers had been threatening the pastor for about five days. Badha Soren one of the main instigators exclaimed that the Christian god was a foreign god and threatened Hansda that severe consequences will befall him and the pastor if they continued the services. The incident occurred again on 17 January when villagers chased away the Christians who tried to gather for Sunday prayers. Later Pastor Marandi approached the Badasahi police station to file a complaint against the radicals, but the police did not heed his complaints.

On 13 January in Badaguda village, Koraput Sadar, Koraput district, Odisha, Radhika Nayak - a Christian woman - was badly beaten up owing to her religious beliefs. She was attacked by Nagama Nayak and her husband Purna Nayak, who are locals. The couple barged into her house, abused her verbally with filthy languages, and hit her head with a stone. She sustained grievous injuries on her head that required 12 stitches to stop the bleeding. The next day she approached local police, with the help of her pastor, and an FIR was registered.

On 15 January in Malkangiri, Odisha, a newly converted Christian couple, Padiami and his wife, was harassed and banished from their home village on account of the Christian faith. Due to their conversion, they were called to a village meeting. The chief of Kambawada village, Koya Samaj, demanded Padiami and his wife renounce their Christian faith. However, they both stood firm and refused.

On 15 January in Malkangiri, Odisha, Raja Kartami, a 20-year-old Christian, was falsely accused of kidnapping and attempting to forcefully convert his wife Ramburti to Christianity. The falsely accused of violating the state's anti-conversion law came from Kartami's in-laws. When Ramburti's parents discovered Kartami accepted the Christian faith, they began to threaten him and his family. They claimed Kartami had accepted a foreign religion and planned to force their daughter to convert to Christianity.

On 26 January morning in Padampur village, Malkangiri district, Odisha, religious radicals demolished a church building and physically assaulted the church members. The next day Mutai Khilla, a Christian woman, registered an FIR, bearing number 0029, at Malkangiri police station against the vandals.

On 10 February in Malkangiri, Odisha, a couple was socially boycotted by the local villagers for allowing a Christian pastor to come home and pray over them. Ganga Padiama, age 35, had suffered a hip injury in January 2021. Ganga's wife rushed him to a hospital where he was admitted; however, they could not afford the cost of the surgery and the hospital discharged him. Ganga and his wife prayed to all their deities, sought the help of witch doctors, and invited other spiritual advisors to their home, but to no avail. In sheer desperation, the couple chose to invite Pastor Samuel, a local pastor in Kalimela, for prayer. The pastor visited their home, shared the Gospel, and prayed for Ganga. The couple accepted Christ on the same day. The villagers became angry when they discovered a Christian pastor prayed over Ganga and said now you no longer belong to this village and our community.

On 14 February in Koraput, Odisha, 11 local villagers interrupted a church service to find a Christian, Ratna Mandi, and her family. Ratna, a 21-year-old woman, suffered from a urinary blood disease since she was 18. Ratna attended a church service secretly as a last resort and asked for prayer. After two or three days, Ratna miraculously recovered from all pain and her weakness disappeared. Days after Ratna's healing, her mother had pain all over her body and agreed to get prayed over by the same local pastor. In disbelief, her pain was relieved almost instantly. Now along with her mother and other family members, Ratna was participating in the church service on Sundays. Local villagers said that Ratna is a Hindu girl who should not be going to church. If she continued, then she would be banished from the village and never allowed to come back.

On 21 April at Badaguda village, Koraput district, Odisha, a group of people opposed the construction of a church building. The mob called local police and alleged that the land did not belong to Deboboi, a church member. The church's pastor, Jitendra Khosla, and Devo were eventually able to prove ownership with their registered documents. Due to constant opposition for many days, the construction work slowed down. However, the church members have not filed a police complaint yet.

On 27 April in Gopinathpur village, Puri district, Odisha, a group of religious extremists threatened seven Christian families to leave their Christian faith. The Christians have been socially ostracized from the village; even the relatives and extended families of Christians are not allowed to enter the village and visit these seven families.

On 12 May in Malkangiri, Odisha, an elderly Christian couple, Jaga Madkami, age 61, and his wife Debe, age 55, were socially boycotted by the villagers on account of their Christian faith. The couple grew up in Hindu homes and lived a comfortable life. Jaga spent most of his life devoted to serving as a Hindu priest, meditating, and making offerings to deities. From 2018 onwards, Jaga and his wife had undergone a severe case of tuberculosis. Jaga sacrificed many animals to their gods and goddesses, went to many different doctors, and tried several medications; however, nothing worked. One day, the couple heard about Jesus healing the sick from local Christians. Interested in learning more, they attended a church service in secret. The church pastor and the congregation prayed for the couple in the name of Jesus. Miraculously, their health started improving within days. In June 2020, Jaga and Debe accepted the Christian faith to live by.

On May 16 in Badaguda village Koraput, Odisha, a group of Christians and an under-construction church were attacked by religious extremists. There were about 40 Christians that gathered there and were mostly from the tribal community who had recently adopted the Christian faith. Christians had taken approval from the Tehsildar to construct a new church building on the property of Deboboi, who is also a church member. Religious extremists opposed the construction of the same church in April as well.

On 20 May in Loisingha village, Balangir district, Odisha, a group of religious extremists barged into Pastor Alok Rajhans' house and severely beat the pastor, resulting in his death. The murder took place in the area that falls under the Laramba police station. The pastor was affiliated with the ALTC ministry. Pastor Rajhans was attacked with rods, stones and knives by the assailants. When the pastor's wife intervened to stop the attempted stabbing, she also suffered an injury to her arm. Pastor Rajhans was reportedly struck in the back of the head with an unidentified object during the attack.

On 23 May in Sikarpai village, Rayagada, Odisha, six Christian families had their homes' roofs destroyed, looted, and beaten by villagers practising traditional religion. Christian had to flee into the woods after being driven out by the villagers.

On 28 May in Muibahau village, Nawapada district, Odisha, Pastor Prem Das Senapati was visiting his church member Khetaram to pray for him and his

family. A group of 12-15 villagers barged into the house and started abusing and threatening the Pastor. They warned Khetaram that he should not invite Pastor to his house or in the village. Khetaram owns the house that he lives in with his family. Pastor Prem Das Senapati lives around 20km away in Mutul village of Nawapada district, Odisha and has been serving in the nearby villages for 7 years.

On 7 June in Rayagada district, Odisha, five Christian families fled Kotlanga village after threats from villagers to assault them. The opposition was so fierce, according to sources, that they had to flee to the jungle to avoid the planned attack on the night of 7 June. It is quite similar to what happened in the nearby village of Sikarpai towards the end of May. More than 50 Christians from three villages have now taken refuge in the jungles of Rayagada. They are without proper shelter, food, water and electricity. Despite registering several complaints with Singhpur police, the Christians continue to face opposition, and officers have done little to protect them.

On 30 June in Danagadi, Odisha, a mob of religious radicals attacked Pastor Hemant Meher and his congregation. The mob accused them of engaging in religious conversion activities.

On 4 July in Koraput, Odisha, religious extremists forcibly trespassed on the land of Laxman Hatapaik, a follower of Christ, and destroyed his crops. According to information, religious extremists are forcing Christians out of their villages because they adhere to the Christian faith, and their lands are being violently seized and crops destroyed.

On 10 July in Rayagada, Odisha, there was a village council meeting, where Christian families of the village and other villagers were gathered. The meeting was called by regional administrative officers following a conflict that had erupted after Christians were boycotted from the village on account of their faith. In the meeting, villagers continued to demand that if Christians want to live in the village they will have to forsake Christianity.

On 1 August in Kendrapara, Odisha, Pastor Lalit Nayak was physically assaulted for professing and propagating his faith by right-wing group's members. Around 100 of the right-wing members, trespassed in the venue where pastor Nayak conducts prayer meetings, physically assaulted him and destroyed the musical instruments used during prayer

and worship. A few days ago, the pastor prayed for a girl who was taken ill. Afterwards, it was noticed by the family that she recovered from ill-health. When one of the relatives of this girl, who is associated with a right-wing group, came to know about the pastor had prayed over the girl, he accused the pastor of carrying out the religious conversion.

On 18 November in Akharpali, Malkangiri, Odisha, Christians, husband and wife, were beaten and thrown into a pond on account of their faith. Later, they were taken to Malkangiri District Hospital, where they were treated.

On 19 September in Ladamila, Kandhamal, Odisha, Christian families were chased away from the village on account of practising and professing their faith. Earlier on, Christians were barred from accessing water from the community well and a pond, but the women went to the paddy fields to fill their containers. Suddenly, a group of hostile men and women stormed the houses, attacked the Christians and threw away the water, making it impossible for the families to cook or clean. There were two families who fled to the forest; the other two fled to a nearby village, where they found refuge in the house of some relatives. They were also forbidden to graze cattle and excluded from social gatherings.

On 12 December Balasore, Odisha, Christians, Jacob Sondi, GhannasyamDugal, Samuel Das, and Bikram Choudhury were beaten severely on account of their Christian faith work, their copies of the Bible, and other Christian literature were burnt by the religious extremists.

PUNJAB

On 18 January in Halwara township, Ludhiana district, Punjab, religious extremists threatened a Christian woman to desist from attending prayers at a church pastored by Surina Masih. The extremists have been protesting against the prayer meeting conducted by Surina and often stop church members from attending the prayers. The church was earlier led by Surina Masih's father, Pastor Surender Masih. Upon his sudden demise, Surina has been leading the services.

On 20 June in Ghawaddi village, Ludhiana, Punjab, three women who had recently accepted the

Christian faith were assaulted by three men belonging to the same village.

On 13 July in Fazilka, Punjab, extremists attacked Pastor Roop Lal, his wife and other family members because of his ministry work in the region. The attackers stormed into the pastor's house carrying sharp objects, sticks, and bricks.

On 12 October in Amritsar, Punjab, the head priest of the Sikh Community named Giani Harpreet Singh made a comment arousing ill-will toward the Christian community. He made a statement that Christian missionaries are carrying out conversion campaigns through force and lure in the border areas of Punjab.

RAJASTHAN

On 31 January in Dheephri village, Pipalda tehsil, Kota district, Rajasthan, Dilkhush Mahaveer, a Christian, was summoned at the Khatauli police station. Sources reported that Mahaveer had been constructing a prayer hall at his property after gaining permission from the village panchayat. However, certain religious extremists had complained to the police that he was illegally constructing the building. Pastor Senthil Kumar conducts regular prayers in the village.

On May 04 in Kotra Tehsil, Udaipur, Rajasthan, Pastor Ramesh Bumbariya's family was assaulted by religious extremists for their practising Christianity. The pastor went to the police station and filed a complaint, but no action was taken. The pastor's father was also physically abused three times in the past for their Christian faith.

On 15 May in Danpur, Banswara, Rajasthan, some Christian families were attacked by anti-social elements in the guise of a water dispute. Christians were physically assaulted, and their houses were vandalized. Local sources reported that the motive behind the attack was religious.

On 18 May in Thep village, Kotra Tehsil, Udaipur district, Rajasthan, a vengeful mob barged into Pastor Ramesh Bumbariya's home. They severely

assaulted the pastor and his father Bhima Bumbariya. The mob comprised of the pastor's relatives who were irate at his Christian convictions. They were armed with guns, axes, swords and wooden clubs. Initially, they fired three rounds of bullets, then struck Bhima with an axe and swords resulting in his death. The pastor was also grievously injured. A First Information Report has been filed in the case and a police investigation was underway.

On 14 July in Jahanpura, KadwaliBanswara, according to reports received, local Christian leaders reached out to Christian families who were targeted because of their faith. Right-wing activists had beaten Christians and vandalized their homes under the guise of water filling disputes.

On 15 September in Ghattu village, Nokha, Bikaner, Rajasthan, six pastors were severely beaten on account of their Christian faith and for preaching the Gospel. When extremists learned about the pastors, they reached the spot, raised anti-Christian slogans, and called the police.

TAMIL NADU

On 14 February in Ellampillai town, Salem district, Tamil Nadu, some religious extremists barged into the LEF Church and disrupted the Sunday prayers alleging that the pastor and the church members were involved in illegal religious conversion activities. According to sources, they have also filed a complaint at the local police station.

On 11 April in Allinagaram, near Theni, Tamil Nadu, religious radicals barged into a Sunday prayer service that was being conducted by Pastor Haggin. The pastor has been ministering at the Word Church for the past 15 years. His church has been facing regular opposition for three years. Earlier a police complaint had been filed by the pastor against the radicals for constantly disturbing church activities. This had led to a written undertaking by the radicals that they would desist from troubling the Christians. However, the opposition has not stopped. On the day of the incident, the radicals sat down in front of the church building and raised provocative religious and communal slogans.

On 13 June in Salem district, Tamil Nadu, a pastor and his pregnant wife were attacked by radical

Hindu nationalists. The attack on the Christian couple was the latest attempt by extremists to shut down the local church. Pastor Jeevanandam and his wife were confronted by Manibannan and Nagaraj, allegedly belonging to a right-wing group and two other unidentified men after Sunday worship at Omega Church in Salem. The other radicals joined Manibannan and stripped Pastor Jeevanandam of his shirt while they continued to beat the pastor. Pastor Jeevanandam's pregnant wife attempted to protect her husband and was pushed aside, stripped, and beaten on the legs with a wooden stick.

On 1 August in Kamaraj Nagar, Karur, Tamil Nadu, Santosh Kumar, 35, was questioned and threatened by a neighbour after a Church elder visited Kumar. Kumar was intercepted by this neighbour who reportedly subscribes to right-wing ideology after the Church elder had visited Kumar's house. The irate neighbour shouted at Kumar, "Are you a Christian? Why are Christians visiting you?" Kumar realized the neighbour was drunk and asked him what was wrong. Before Kumar continued on his way, the neighbour again stopped him and shouted vociferously at Kumar that India had long been a Hindu country and asked him why he still lived there. Two people standing nearby had iron rods, came to them, and began beating Kumar. They threatened that if he dared share about Jesus with anybody, they would kill him.

On 8 August in Karur, Tamil Nadu, some religious extremists stopped Evangelist Selvam's vehicle forcibly. An extremist group took away the keys to the vehicle containing copies of the Bible, stating that they would not allow the Bible to be distributed. Following these events, Evangelist Selvam and other Christians filed a complaint with the local police station.

On 3 October in Trichy, Tamil Nadu, Pastor Adaikalaraj was invited by a man to his home for prayer. In response, the pastor visited his home for prayer. Two men came with rods and severely attacked the pastor as he was about to start the prayer.

On 18 December in Punnamchatram, Karur, Tamil Nadu, Christian groups distributed Gideon's free Bibles to students of Cheran High School. Members of a right-wing group opposed the distribution of Bibles, seized the car used by Christians and smashed the windshield.

TELANGANA

On 4 January in Nalgonda, Telangana, Horebu Pentecostal Church was desecrated by unknown assailants. As a result, the church was partially broken, and its members were left to worry about the possibility of future attacks. Pastor Samuel, the head of the District Pastor Association, told that the members of the church found the church had been vandalized on the morning of January 5. According to witnesses, broken glass and other debris were scattered at the church premises. Pastor Sunil Kumar, the pastor of Horebu Pentecostal Church, was informed of the desecration and immediately reported the incident to local police. The Church has been operating in Peddamunigala village for the last 11 years. At present, around 200 people consistently attend worship services at Horebu Pentecostal Church.

On 20 January in BTR Nagar Colony, Mahabubabad city, Telangana, around 30 people, allegedly belonging to Bajrang Dal, demolished the boundary wall of a church. Pastor Afzal has been regularly conducting prayer services at the church. A complaint was lodged against the vandals at the Mahabubabad Town police station.

On 31 January in Sarakonda village, Telangana, a Christian prayer meeting was attacked by religious fanatics. A mob of ten fanatics attacked the prayer being held inside the home of a Christian. The mob, without saying a word, rushed towards church pastor Zachariah and started to beat him. They punched him and fell to the ground. They also took away the Bible the pastor was holding. Other Christians were also beaten by religious fanatics. They also damaged a keyboard, a speaker system, and a microphone.

On 28 February in Dharmapuri, Jagtial, Telangana, a house church was shut down after religious extremists put pressure on the police and the church's landlord. To legitimize the closure of the house church, local authorities used a state ordinance that prohibits the propagation of non-Hindu faiths in places designated temple towns. As the extremists stormed into the rented house, they shouted anti-Christian slogans and used insulting language. Members of the mob confronted church Pastor K. Samuel and threatened him with grave consequences if he did not shut down the church.

UTTAR PRADESH

On 3 January in Vikas Colony, Shahjahanpur district, Uttar Pradesh, four Christians and a pastor were charged on allegations of engaging in religious conversion activities. Religious extremists accused Pastor H S David, Rajat, Jagat, Ajay, and Shirish Gupta of luring people into Christianity - a claim that the Christians vehemently denied. The incident occurred while they had gathered for the regular Sunday prayers when a group of extremists arrived at the spot and physically assaulted the Christians. Subsequently, they called local police and an FIR was registered against the five men.

On 3 January in Bhadohi district, Uttar Pradesh, some policemen barged into a prayer meeting led by Pastor Ashok Kumar and started filming the program. They then questioned the pastor whether he had permission to conduct such meetings. Before leaving they warned him that he might be summoned to the nearby police station.

On 10 January in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, while Pastor Ajay Pal was conducting a prayer meeting along with 25 to 30 Christians, two policemen from the nearby Cantonment police post arrived at his house and took him into custody. Some locals had complained that the pastor was involved in religious conversion activities. Soon a group of Christian leaders visited the police station and advocated for the pastor's release stating that the complaint was a false one. Consequently, the pastor was let go without charges.

On 20 January in Garwar block, Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh, religious extremists confronted Pastor Jag Jeevan Ram and other Christians, warning them to desist from gathering for prayers at the Budhua village. They threatened the Christians that they would demolish their church on the ensuing Sunday. Shocked by the incident, the pastor approached the local police station for protection and help.

On 22 January at JP Nagar police station, Amroha district, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Daniel Masih and Ramavtar Patil were interrogated on allegations of converting people through inducement. Masih and Patil work with Vishwa Vani, a Christian organization. Reportedly certain religious radicals had complained to the police that the organization was involved in conversion activities. However, no FIR was registered

against the pastor.

On 28 January in Guba Garden, Kalyanpur town, Kanpur district, Uttar Pradesh, Kalyanpur police arrested Pastor Pankaj Malik on allegations of engaging in religious conversion activities. He was kept in custody the entire night. The next day multiple advocacy groups contacted the police demanding a fair investigation. Subsequently, the pastor was let go without any charges.

On 16 February in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, members of the right-wing All India student organisation vandalized Sadar Methodist Church. When local Christians detailed the episode to police, authorities did little to investigate the crime. Pastor Simon Prasad, leader of the Pastors' Association of Bareilly, told the media that members of a student organisation vandalized the Sadar Methodist Church in Bareilly in an effort to stoke communal tensions. Nationalist slogans such as "Jai Sri Ram" were repeatedly painted across the entryways and walls of Bareilly's oldest church. On February 17, Pastor Prasad and other Christian leaders of the church made an attempt to report the incident to local police. However, police personnel tried to block the submission of the complaint and told the Christian victims that nothing had happened.

On 21 February in Ambedkarnagar district, Uttar Pradesh, a team of local police and religious radicals barged into a Sunday prayer meeting and demanded that he stop the service. They verbally abused him and warned him that if conducted the services again, he would be arrested and sent to prison on charges of religious conversion. The pastor categorically denied all allegations of involving in conversion activities.

Pastor Jitendra Varma has been serving with BharpurJiwanSewa Trust for 3 years in Mukti Mohalla, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh. On 25 February in Ugrasenpur, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Jitendra Verma invited some Christians from nearby places namely Lal Bahadur Bind, Shankar Bind, and Pastor Sanjay Gupta from Mumbai to visit one of his church members to conduct a prayer meeting. After the service about 15 religious extremists came with a police constable and started abusing and threatening the Christians. It was alleged that the Christians were forcing the locals to convert.

On 27 February in Gajraula city, Amroha district, Uttar Pradesh, seven Christian pastors -

including Daniel Masih and Ramavtar Patil - who are affiliated with Vishwa Vani, were summoned by Sanjay Kumar, the Local Intelligence Unit (Intelligence Bureau) official, for questioning. Sources reported that the officer, with much aggression, questioned the pastors on their source of funding, their Christian services, and the activities for which their organization was utilizing the funds. The pastors were visibly shocked and traumatized after the verbally harassing interrogation. Earlier too, on 22 January this year, they had been summoned by the JP Nagar police station regarding their Christian ministry in the area.

On 3 March in Shivli town, Kanpur Dehat district, Uttar Pradesh, police personnel arrested Pastor Kishan Lal from his home while he was engaged in a Bible Study program, and brought him for interrogation at the local police station. After Christian advocacy groups contacted SHO Pramod Shukla, the pastor was let go, after questioning, without any charges filed against him.

On 14 March in Jyoti Nagar, Arjun Nagar, Agra district, Uttar Pradesh, Ravi Kumar, a pastor of the Rehoboth Christian Assembly, was physically assaulted by religious radicals belonging to a major political party and was taken into police custody at the Shahganj police station. Owing to much pressure from the irate mob of radicals, local police felt helpless in releasing Kumar. The mob accused him of urinating inside their temple, a charge which Kumar vehemently denied. Subsequently, after continual intervention from rights groups, Kumar was let go.

On 15 March in Madarbhari village, Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, a group of villagers accompanied by police personnel barged into the house of Pastor Anjeet Kumar, accused him of engaging in religious conversion activities and escorted him, Bhullar Banbasi, and five others, to the Bhati police station. The incident occurred while the pastor and his relatives were peacefully resting in the house. The Christians were kept in custody for about 6 hours. Subsequently, upon intervention from human rights groups, they were released without any charges.

On 19 March evening in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, four nuns from the Delhi Province of the Sacred Heart Society (SH) were arrested while on their way to Odisha from Delhi. The incident occurred while the train in which they were travelling stopped at 6.30 pm at Jhansi railway station. A group of religious extremists, who were returning from a pilgrimage, unjustifiably accused them of religious conversion and

caused trouble. They challenged the faith of the women and raised religious slogans. Subsequently, police arrived at the spot and arrested the women without paying any heed to their side of the story. Around 150 religious radicals accompanied the women in procession to the police station.

On 23 March in Matehu, Ghazipur district, Uttar Pradesh, some Christians - Munna Bharti, Vinod Kumar and a few others - were arrested and detained at the Matehu police post on allegations of illegal religious conversion activity. The charges were brought against them by a group of religious extremists. However, after intervention from human rights groups and police's interrogation, the Christians were let go without any charges.

On 19 April in Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh, Simon Johnson alias Sadanand Kumar, a blind, 19-year-old man, accepted Christianity out of his own free will and experienced some healing. After that, he travelled to Chennai for short-term Bible training. Since he changed his name and religion, he has constantly been harassed by his family. He had to spend many nights without food.

On 24 May in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, according to reports, Shriram Gautam, a follower of Christianity, was falsely charged with outraging the modesty of a woman and other baseless accusations after he rushed out of his house to rescue his daughter from religious fanatics. The fanatics had attacked his 23-year-old daughter Anamika with lathis (bamboo clubs with iron wire wound around them) and steel rods, threatening to publicly humiliate and beat them to death. The fanatics believe her family adopted Christianity, so other people may do so as well. Therefore, they should be insulted.

On the morning of 20 June in Rohania, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Ajay Kumar Rajbhar, field staff of APC Church, and other church leaders were taken into police custody on false charges of religious conversion. After interventions from Christian advocacy groups, both were let go without any charges against them.

On 23 June in village Nagina in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, Usha and Omvati were taken into police custody. Usha was leading a prayer meeting in Satveer and Ompal's house when a mob of religious extremists barged in and disrupted the meeting. The extremists took photos and videos and made a false complaint to the police alleging that the evangelist Usha was

involved in fraudulent conversion activity. In response to the complaint, the police detained the women and took them to the Seohara Police Station, Bijnaur. A case was filed under section 151 of the Indian Penal Code.

On 24 June in Jahanaganj block, Azamgarh district, Uttar Pradesh, local sources reported that a false complaint of religious conversion was brought against Pastor Bhanu Pratap in Jahanaganj police station.

On 25 June in Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Punvaasi was taken to a local police station on a complaint that he was involved in religious conversion. The pastor was later let go after interrogation.

On 25 June in Nawabganj, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, local police arrested some Christians, including a woman, Jilomina John, and questioned them. Some local villagers had alleged that the Christians were luring and trying to convert some families in the village.

On 26 June in Milak Bakar Ali village, Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh, two Christian individuals - Shubdesh and Raman - were arrested by local police on false accusations of carrying out religious conversion activities.

On 27 June 2021 in Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, pastor Ram Ujagir and a fellow Christian, Fursat, were arrested by police while they were having a prayer meeting in the village and taken to the Malipur police station. Pastor Ujagir and Fursat were accused of being involved in a religious conversion activity and were charged under 151 of IPC and were sent to jail custody for Ten days.

On 28 June in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Shivkumar Verma and another individual were taken into police custody at Salon police station on false charges of religious conversion. Local sources reported that since there was no evidence corroborating the accusations police personnel demanded a bribe in order to release the two Christians.

On 29 June in KumbhiyaMasi village, Khutar PS, Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Harishchandra and Christians were again harassed for practicing, professing and propagating their faith by the village's right-wing elements. This has been an ongoing issue for some time now that the neighbors of the pastor's newly constructed church building have been

opposing the presence of Christians. It was reported that during the construction of the church building, the Pastor left some extra land, which the neighbors have now taken over, and the villagers have dug up the ground, created a drainage system, and claim the land as their own. Upon questioning, the villagers allegedly claimed that they would not return the land back as it is now theirs and accused Christians of religious conversion. Furthermore, the Christians were threatened and abused and warned not to conduct any church gatherings.

On 29 June in Chandrapur village, Auraiya district, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Komal Das and his family's access to the road and the drainage was blocked by their neighbours. Pastor Komal Das has been serving for 20 years in the village, and as per him, he and his family are being targeted for their faith by their neighbours. The neighbours are indirectly targeting the Christians and harassing them because of their faith.

On 29 June in Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Deshraj and his family were attacked by a group of people accusing them of carrying out religious conversion activities in their locality. The religious extremists accused the Christians of being involved in forceful conversion. The police then took both the Pastor and his brother into custody. Later a larger group of religious extremists came to the house and chanted religious slogans and damaged two bikes that were standing outside the house.

On 3 July in Shirconi village, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, two Pastors namely Dr Vinod Kumar Yadav, Ramesh Chandra Saroj and Kamlesh Prajapati were detained by the local Police while they were conducting a prayer meeting with some local Christians.

On 4 July in Lohapatti village, Milak PS, Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Manoj was invited for prayer to one of his church member's houses, he was conducting a prayer along with 80 to 90 Christians. Rambachan, one of the villagers, informed religious extremists that Pastor Manoj is converting people to Christianity. Subsequently, a mob of around 40 religious extremists came and attacked the pastor. Pastor sustained severe injuries. As a result, the police were informed of the incident, and the pastor was taken to the police station and detained.

On 16 Jul in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, a Christian school teacher named Sushil Paul was questioned by

local police as there was a false allegation against him being involved in religious conversion activities.

On 19 Jul in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Sadhu Gautam and six other Christians were physically assaulted for their Christian faith by the religious extremists. Afterwards, the pastor and others were handed over to local police and sent to jail with the allegation that the pastor is involved in religious conversion.

On 21 Jul in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, right-wing group members targeted the leaders and staffs of a Christian NGO with false allegations of religious conversion activity. Some of the staff were taken into police custody at the behest of right-wing group members.

On 21 July in Padrauna, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, a Christian organization, "Shirin Basumata Foundation", was targeted by local religious extremists. In the Allahabad High Court, a case related to the orphanage is already pending. However, on 21 July, Police and other government officials raided the orphanage and took all the children into custody along with Pastor Jaywant and their family.

On 22 Jul in Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Phool Singh was accused of converting people to Christianity when he visited a neighbouring village in Lalpur. The pastor was subsequently taken to the local police station.

On 23 Jul in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Verghese was conducting a prayer meeting along with the church members when some right-wing group members disrupted the meeting and physically assaulted the pastor.

On July 28 in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, at the community burial ground, Pastor Sabajeet and others attempted a Christian funeral for his deceased grandmother. However, the village council and religious extremists in the village opposed the burial. They demanded Christians pay a large sum to bury her body in the village's graveyard since they had accepted Christianity. The village's president enacted this rule exclusively for Christians. A mob of about 30 religious extremists also tried to stop the burial.

On 29 July in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, a complaint has been filed against Pastor Daniel Banerjee at the local police station alleging that he is involved in

forceful religious conversion. According to the pastor, the allegations are unfounded and untrue. The police came to his home to find the pastor, but he was visiting Bijnor. He was asked to come to the police station when he returns to the city.

On 30 Jul in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Fatanpur police arrested Dharmendra Kumar, the brother of a local pastor, for conversion and brought him to the police station, where he was charged under section 151 of the Indian Penal Code.

On 31 July in Parmandapur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Vijay Kumar's church was interrupted by the local police during a fasting prayer. According to reports, neighbours opposing prayer meetings and Christian fellowship made a false complaint to the police, alleging that the Christian gatherings cause garbage to spread in the area and make noise pollution. The pastor was therefore instructed not to conduct any further prayer meetings by the police.

On 2 August at Hyderabad police station, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, a complaint was filed against Pastor Bal Govind and his father and a church member named Santram. They were called to the police station and asked if they were involved in forced conversion. Some news portals and some news agencies have broadcast biased stories about Christians. Following the news going viral, there were continuous threats against Christians in Hempur village, where the pastor conducts prayer meetings.

On 3 August in Phoolpur, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Vijay Kumar Patel was conducting a prayer meeting at his church member's house along with 5-8 Christians. While the prayer meeting was ongoing some religious extremists barged in and started abusing, threatening and physically assaulting them. They then took Pastor Vijay and his wife and Pastor Neil Durai from Tamil Nadu and some Christians to Phoolpur police station.

On 4 August in Nijhamabad, Gambhirpur, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, some religious extremists from Pastor Shyamanand Bind's village came to his house and started abusing and threatening him and his family. They threatened them to re-convert to Hinduism and go to the temple and offer water to their Hindu deities. After the Pastor and others refused to comply, the religious extremists along with some villagers gave a complaint to the local police.

On 5 August in village Gaarapur Malaka Phaphamau, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Gaya Prasad Yadav, Lal Bahadur Patel, Chandrapal and a few other Christians had gathered to pray together. Local police from Tharwai police station came and asked the Christians to come to the police station. After an enquiry at the police station, three of the Christians were detained.

On 5 August in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Balchand and Pastor Indrasen Singh were harassed and threatened by some religious extremists as they were travelling to conduct a prayer meeting in a village. The religious extremists gathered around them and threatened and harassed the Christians because of their faith.

On 8 August in Hempur village, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, some religious extremists came while Pastor Bal Govind's church service was going on and threatened and abused the Christians. A few days earlier, a false complaint was made at the Hyderabad police station against Pastor Bal Govind.

On 10 August in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, a false complaint was filed against Pastor Subhash Chand by some villagers. They have threatened to close the church and have prohibited church members from entering the building. The pastor and his family have also been prohibited from accessing the hand pump, for clean drinking water.

On 11 August in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, right-wing activists submitted a memorandum to the superintendent of police alleging that Shivraj is involved in conversion work through allurement and force.

On 14 August in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, some Christian men and women in the village Sikhwani had gathered to pray for two days when they were interrupted by the village council head during the prayer and told that they should abandon their faith. Later, the village council head informed the police about the prayer. Police arrived, inquired about the incident, and took two Christian men, Lal Bahadur and Inder Jeet, to the Risia police station and registered a first information report against them (FIR). Police also named three other Christians in the FIR, Manoj Kumar, Prahlad Chauhan, and Ranjeet Kumar respectively.

On 16 August in Devkhari, Bhawarnath, Kandharapur, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Raghav Karenwa was conducting a prayer meeting along with his family when some people from his village came and began threatening them and calling them to the village head's house. The Christians obliged and went to the village council's head house, but the head also started threatening them and accusing them of conversion.

On 18 Aug in Kushinagar, Pastor Kanhaiya Prajapati was abused and threatened by villagers when he visited his sister's house. Kanahiya pastors a church in Gopalapur, Jaunpur, UP. He was accused of converting people to Christianity in Kushinagar. Afterwards, Pastor Kanhaiya was taken into custody by the Turkpatti Police for two days before releasing without any charges.

On 21 Aug in Azamgarh, Pastor Shyamanand Bind was summoned to be questioned following allegations of religious conversion against him. After being held in police custody for two days, he was released following an investigation.

On 23 August in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, Amarjeet, a Christian, and his mother were threatened by the police on account of him being a follower of Christ. It was informed that the police raided their house on 23 August, they removed the Christian calendars and took the Bibles. They accused the family of being involved in forceful conversions.

On 24 Aug in Safipur, Unnao, the District Magistrate and Deputy District Magistrate have been served with a memorandum, with a false allegation, regarding the conversions conducted by pastors by a right-wing group. In the memorandum, they accused pastors and evangelists of insulting the religious feelings of other faith groups and alluring locals to accept Christianity.

On 25 Aug in Azamgarh, a right-wing group submitted a memorandum to the administration threatening that if religious conversion through Christian evangelism continued, they would protest and prevent it.

On 28 Aug in Ambedkarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, the local police asked Pastor Vishwanath Gaur to stop holding Sunday prayer meetings. It was reported that a false report was given to the police that the pastor is involved in religious conversion work. A copy of the

Church's trust deed was taken by police, and they objected to the purpose of propagating the Christian faith. Right-wing groups, the media and the police are hunting down even small fellowships, according to information received. A state of fear is prevalent among rural Christians.

On 29 August in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Manoj Kumar was detained by the local police on the accusation of forceful religious conversion. The police barged into the ongoing church service and brought him to the local police station.

On 29 August in Rampur, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Harishchandra while he was conducting a prayer service some religious extremists came to the church and disrupted the prayer service. Extremists accused Christians of forceful religious conversion and recorded videos of the ongoing worship. They then informed the Police who came and took Pastor Harishchandra and another Christian named Subhash into custody.

On 29 August in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Praveen who is associated with AG Church was attacked by several of his neighbours. This was after he had finished his evening church service. The neighbours alleged that the pastor was involved in religious conversion. The perpetrators also physically assaulted some of the Christians who have sustained internal injuries. The police were informed of the incident, they came and suggested a compromise or asked the pastor to vacate the rented house.

On 31 August in Kartalpur, Azamgarh, Pastor Ramchandra (who is originally from Varanasi) was taken into custody in Azamgarh Kotwali, while he was having a house Christian fellowship. The local religious extremists came to the meeting and said that they wanted to know more about Jesus. After 15 minutes they left and came back with 5 constables and took Pastor into custody.

On 31st August in Pindra, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Sudheer of IBT Church was harassed by some religious extremists who had come to his house in the night and threatened and harassed him. The pastor was warned not to conduct church services, or else they would attack the church. The same group filed a false complaint against Pastor Neil Durai earlier in August.

On 1 September in Saraymanjan, PS

Rudauli, Faizabad, Ayodhya district, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ghanshyam was detained by the police when he was praying with a small group in the church. When Mukesh, Suraj and Ramsingh went to the Police Station on 2nd September morning to meet Pastor, they were also detained by police.

On 1 September in Pataimuraini, Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh, some right-wing group's activists came to Pastor Sabajeet and sought money for Temple but he politely denied giving. For a response like that from the pastor, they planned to falsely implicate him with the accusation that he is trying to convert them forcibly to accept the Christian faith. After some time, the Police came and took Pastor Savajeet, Chhotelal, Gopinath into custody at Chanda police station, Sultanpur. Earlier, in July, Christians were harassed while they were trying to bury Pastor Sabajeet's grandmother.

On 2 September in Motipur, Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ajay was asked to report at the local police station of Motipur. When he reached the station, the police said that they had received a complaint against him that he was involved in religious conversion activity. Moreover, the police said that a team from Lucknow would pick him up and take him to Lucknow for questioning. Due to the intervention of the Christian advocacy group, the pastor was not charged, and let go.

On 5 September in Maniganj Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ghanshyam was conducting a Sunday praying meeting. Some policemen from a local police station approached him and threatened him not to pray with other Christians without permission. Pastor Ghanshyam and three Christians, two men and one woman, were then taken to the local police station.

5 September in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Samson Masih was taking his church near Kadwai Nagar. Suddenly 20 right-wing people entered the church, started making videos, and attempted to disrupt the church service.

On 7 September in Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ajay Kumar Gautam was asked to report at Kotwali {Main City Police Station} Bhadohi and meet the Station House Officer. He was told that he has been under observation by local police for a few days because he conducts Christian prayer meetings, which villagers are complaining about. The new village chief also opposes church activities.

On 7 September at Sikrara Police Station, Jaunpur, Pastor Jiyalal Nishad was booked under Section 3/5(1) of the Uttar Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act. The pastor had visited his church member's home in Ledhuwan village along with other 15 Christians to conduct a prayer meeting. Someone local made a false complaint against the pastor for carrying out forceful religious conversions.

On 7 September in Misripur village, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Raju Manjhi was conducting a prayer meeting in a fellow Christian's home. A complaint was filed against the pastor for conducting the prayer and the Pastor was taken to Jiyampur police station by police. The pastor was charged booked as per the Uttar Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act.

On 8 September in Hanuman Garh, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, pastors Ramudesh Sahni and Omprakash were participating in a prayer meeting when Local right-wing leaders came and accused him of forcible conversion. Both of them were been taken into police custody at Hanumangarh police station.

On 8 September in village Khushurapur, Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh, Ms Sanju Devi was conducting a prayer meeting. While the prayer was carrying on, a group of local media people showed up in front of their prayer hall and started accusing them of conversion activities. Local media threatened them that a right-wing outfit would come to deal with them anytime. Ms Sanju Devi contacted the police control room, and two patrolling policemen came. They interacted with the local media and Sanju. The media accused Sanju and Christians. In response, Ms Sanju refuted all the allegations.

On 10 September in Jearuaa village, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Richard and other fellow Christians were taken to a local police station. The pastor was informed that someone has complained against them saying in the guise of Christian prayer, they are involved in forceful religious conversion and speak ill of other communities.

On 11 September in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ashish John was picked up by Panwari Police when he had gone to a nearby village for prayer. A complaint was made against him by local right-wing elements and a false case was registered. However, the people of the area where the pastor had gone for prayer, clearly stated that no one had been lured by the pastor

and no pressure had been exerted on them.

On 12 September in Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Dinesh was detained by the police of Banthla police post. The pastor had gone to register a complaint against some religious extremists who threatened and harassed him saying if he continued church services, there would be dire consequences.

On 13 September in Gola Koliram road, Rani Bazaar, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor InderjeetDusadh was conducting a prayer meeting at his home. Then suddenly some policemen arrived and they stopped the service. The pastor was asked if he conducts prayer meetings with permission. If the pastor does not have permission, he cannot invite people to pray at his home.

On 14 September in Bhagwanpur, Hanumanganj, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhote Lal was conducting a prayer meeting at his house. Then suddenly two policemen came and stopped the service. They have warned them not to conduct the prayer meeting, or else we will arrest you and send you to prison.

On 14 September 2021, Pastor Vinod Kumar Sattimadhe from Maholi, Sitapur District, Uttar Pradesh was detained by the Sitapur Police when he was visiting a Christian family. A complaint was filed by some religious extremists alleging that he is involved in religious conversion. The police then registered a first information report against the victim u/s 153A of the Indian Penal Code and 3/5 of Uttar Pradesh FoRA.

On 19 September in the village Chintman, Tehsil Milak, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, some anti-social elements trespassed the house of Ramesh Max, a Christian. Ramesh conducts prayer meetings on his property and offers elementary school tuition to the children in his neighbourhood. The trespassers shouted at the time of the intrusion that they would not allow prayer meetings to take place.

On 19 September in village Sakhauli, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Rambhagwan Vishwakarma was conducting a prayer meeting when religious extremists filed a false complaint of religious conversion against him. Hence, the pastor was called to the local police station where he interacted with the police personnel and cooperated by answering questions. In the end, the allegation of conversion was

found to be baseless.

On 19 September in Lal Bungalow area of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, a crowd of the right-wing group had gathered in the church of Pastor Ved Prakash Yadav (Pastor Pappu Yadav) and shouted slogans against the worship and the people of the church.

On 19 September in Sudama Chauraha, Dewaria, Uttar Pradesh, Sister Reena was conducting a prayer meeting along with some Christians when around 15 to 20 religious extremists came and started throwing stones at the church. The Christians informed the police about the incident immediately. But, the police came and took sister Reena into custody. She was forced by the police to write that she would not be holding any church gatherings at the school.

On 20 September in Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Shyamsundar was detained by the police based on a complaint from their neighbours for religious conversion. Police searched the pastor's house for Christian literature and booked him under sections 3/5 of the Uttar Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act.

On 26 September in Munshiganj, Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh, two unknown and suspicious people had come to Pastor Govind Kumar's church. First, they sought information from the people in the locality, then came to the church by saying that they had come to pray but only sat for 15 minutes. As they sat at the back, they were observed by some members of the congregation as they were asking at what time the church starts and ends. They also asked what all the Church's activities are and who Pastor Govind Kumar is. Subsequently, it was revealed that the two persons were priests in the nearby Temple.

On 26 September in Sudama Chauraha, Dewaria, Uttar Pradesh, Sister Reena wanted to start the regular Sunday prayer meeting, but the religious extremists were waiting outside the school premises and drove anyone away who wanted to enter the school campus. A few days ago also, there was a disruption caused by religious extremists.

On 27 September in Village Navhi, District Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh, some villagers caught hold of Pastor Ramashray along with right-wing fanatic leaders on the main highway road and falsely accused him of forceful conversion. Police came to the spot and took the pastor into custody at the ChandauliKotwali. Later, a few villagers, under the influence of an activist

of a right-wing group, also complained to Police that Pastor had vandalized the local temple.

On 1 October in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, Police officers from the Bikapur Police Station disrupted a peaceful Christian prayer service. They took around 30 people, including the Church pastor Motial Paswan, and children who were gathered for prayer into police custody at the station.

On 1 October in ColonelganjGonda, Uttar Pradesh, a fellow Christian invited Pastor Jacob Kasturi to pray in his home. During the prayer, a group of 30 or more locals entered the home and started beating the pastor. Pastor Jacob was accompanied by his son. The attackers attempted to set the pastor's vehicle on fire, but other locals, realizing the violence was escalating, informed the police, and the pastor was taken into custody. The pastor was released the same day late in the evening after presenting church registration documents. During this entire process, the pastor was mentally harassed, and the attackers warned him not to enter the town. Pastor is associated with India Missionary Society.

On 3 October in Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Durgesh Bharti was conducting a prayer meeting at fellow Christians' house in Nasirabad village. Some right-wing group members came there and started to abuse and threaten them. After some time, they called the police. Pastor Durgesh was taken into custody by the police at Paniyara Police Station.

On 3 October in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Prem Singh Chauhan was taken into custody at the Badlapur Police Station. There was a false complaint of forceful conversion against him. The police came in the morning and took him into custody.

On 3 October in the village, HasanpurBaru, District Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Suraj Pal was informed by the SHO of Sadabad Police Station that there was a complaint of forceful conversion against him and was called in for questioning. However, post-interrogation, the pastor was let go as the allegations were found to be baseless.

On 3 October in the village of Chak Gordhan, Bijanaur, Uttar Pradesh, local Pastor Dinesh after concluding a Sunday prayer was on his way home. He was stopped by two policemen on the way and questioned as to where he was coming from. The pastor responded from the church service. Then seeing the

Bible etc. with the pastor, the policemen said that he would have to report at the local police station the next day.

On 3 October in Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Shrinivas Prasad's prayer meeting was disrupted by radical elements. While they were protesting the prayer meeting, a Christian girl was also physically assaulted by them.

On 3 October in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Nandu Nathaniel and his wife were arrested under sections of the UP anti-conversion law and other IPC sections. There was a complaint from a neighbour who lives next door to the house where the worship was happening.

On 4 October in Banda block, Shahjahan Pur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Jagdamba Prasad was threatened by right-wing elements for practicing his Christian faith. Pastor is associated with Pocket Testament League ministry. The pastor has been threatened in the past also and in one or two instances taken to the local police station.

On 5 October in Sarai village, Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh, local Christians were threatened and were interrogated by saying as to whom do they worship and why by right-wing group members. After Christians informed them that they worship Jesus they made scornful remarks as well as demonstrated their protest by raising slogans of Jai Sriram.

On 6 October in Pawai, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ram Vachan Bind's son was conducting a prayer meeting when some right-wing group members came along with Police and started abusing and threatening gathered Christians. After some time, Police took 8 Christians into custody at Pawai police station in Azamgarh.

On 7 October in Masingpur village, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Rakesh Kumar had visited the home of a fellow believer for a prayer meeting. While the prayer was ongoing, some local villagers with right-wing views barged into the spot and forcefully snatched away the pastor's government IDs and his Bible. As they left, they told the pastor that they would file a police complaint against him. A short while later, police showed up and took the pastor to the Khairabad police station.

On October 10 in Mau, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor

Abraham Ahmed Shakeel, who serves with UP Mission, along with eight others were taken into custody at Mau Kotwali police station. These individuals were accused by religious extremists of performing religious conversion work. Hence, a first information report was registered against them.

On October 10 in Siswa Bazaar, Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh, after being severely beaten by religious extremists during Sunday worship, Pastor Srinivas and his wife were arrested. Pastor Srinivas was charged under section 151 of the IPC at the behest of attackers.

On October 10 in Campierganj, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, three pastors, Vishal, Govinda, and Karan, were taken into police custody at Campierganj police station. Allegations of religious conversion activity were made against all three pastors. Christian advocacy groups intervened, and the pastors were released without being charged.

On 11 October in village Madari, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajkumar was stopped by members of the right-wing while he was conducting a prayer meeting. The prayer meeting was disrupted and religious extremists took to pastor to Sangrampur police station.

On 11 October in Phukaha village, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ashray son of Badriram was conducting a prayer meeting. Local villagers falsely accused them of carrying out the religious conversion and informed Police about it. The Police came and took photos and videos of the prayer hall and fellow Christians.

On 12 October in Mau, Uttar Pradesh, Sister Gracy Monteiro, a school principal affiliated with the Mirpur Catholic Mission, her colleague Sister Roshni Minj, and their driver were attacked by a right-wing vigilante mob. After beating them and abusing them, the mob dragged them to the police station. When she, an Ursuline Franciscan nun, came to the city bus stand around noon, alongside her colleague Sister Minj, and the school's driver, a mob of religious extremists dragged them out, roughed up the driver, and forced them into police custody. The three were held until 6 p.m. Sister Monetrio kept asking the mobs who they were and kept trying to prevent them from hitting the driver, a non-Christian, even as the mob continued abusing and attacking and accusing the three of religious conversion.

On 15 October in Mau village, Chakra (Jamdra), Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Virendra was conducting a fasting prayer. Some people had informed the local police about the prayer meeting. Then the police took the pastor to Haldharpur for further questioning. Due to the intervention of Christian advocacy groups, pastor Virendra was released the same day without any complaint against him.

On 18 October in Pipra Basant, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, the right-wing group's members had accused Pastor Harishchandra of carrying out religious conversion work and had exerted pressure on local police to send the pastor to prison.

On 20 October in Narayanpur, Mirzapur, UP, members of a right-wing group barged into a Christian prayer meeting and disrupted the prayer. The right-wingers verbally abused, physically assaulted and falsely accused pastors of religious conversion. They called the police from Adalhat police station and accused Christians of conversion. Pastor Dinesh and five others were taken into custody at the police station. Pastor and others were then arrested under section 151 of the Indian Penal Code.

On 24 October in Ranvir Pur village in Mau, Uttar Pradesh, a Sunday prayer meeting was going on where religious extremists barged in and physically assaulted Christians. Pastor Ramayan was leading the prayer meeting at his home. Extremists along brought the local media barged inside the home and claimed that a religious conversion going on. Extremists registered a false complaint against Christians and were taken into at Saraylakhansi police. Subsequently, a first information report was against Christians.

On 24 October in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Ram Achal bind was taken into custody by the police at Phulpur station for conducting a Sunday prayer meeting. As per the Station House Officer, a complaint was submitted by a right-wing group who alleged that the pastor was carrying out religious conversion work.

On 24 October in Dhanor village, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Ravi and Ashish were having house prayer when all of a sudden police came and took them in custody at Antu police station.

On 30 October in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Balwant was threatened and abused by some

policemen for conducting a prayer meeting. He conducts a prayer meeting at a church that is seven kilometres away from his home, where the policemen had come to meet the pastor.

On 4 November in Madarbhari, Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, an attack was carried out by religious extremists against the Christian family of Anjit Kumar as they were having dinner after concluding their evening prayer. Suddenly about 25 to 30 religious extremists entered their house. People who attacked Anjeet's family with sticks said they would have to reject their faith in Jesus Christ if they were to continue living in the village.

On 10 November in Banda, Shahjanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Jagdamba Prasad was on his way to a nearby village for prayer services when religious extremists beat him up. The extremists called the police and the pastor was taken to the police station. An acquaintance of the pastor spoke with the Superintendent of Police and the pastor was released from the police station in the evening.

On 14 November in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Bharat Kavi was brought to the Churuk police post. The pastor was notified that the child of his neighbour was missing in the village, so the police inspector summoned him to the police station for questioning. According to the pastor, some of the local villagers who are opposed to the prayer gathering had told the police that many people come to the pastor's home to pray on Sundays both from within the village and outside the village and therefore, police should question the pastor about the missing child. For two days, the pastor cooperated with the police and answered their questions. Moving forward, the police ordered not to conduct a Sunday prayer meeting on 21 November.

On 14 November in Cholahpur, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, SabhajitKanojia was taken to a police station from a Sunday church service. Sabhajit was questioned by police about why he conducts Christian prayer meetings and when he started them. Subsequently, it was revealed that the right-wing members had informed local police that religious conversion was going on. Upon questioning the pastor, police found the allegations to be baseless and released him without charging him.

On 21 November 2021 in Bansgaon village Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Lalchand

Gautam was conducting a prayer meeting. A group of religious extremists barged in and disrupted the prayer meeting and physically assaulted the Pastor and accused him and his wife of religious conversion and informed the police. The police arrived and detained the pastor and his wife Rambha Devi. Rambha Devi was released but booked Pastor Lalchand under the UP FoRA (freedom of religion act) 3/5(1) and was sent to Gorakhpur jail the next day.

On 23 November in Lakhisarai, Bihar, Jyoti Chauhan Chauhan's church was attacked, ransacked, and church members were beaten up by the villagers and members of the right-wing group. As a result, Jyoti went to the police station to file a complaint with some female Christians.

On 28 November in Baragaon village, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Savendra Kumar was threatened and warned by two local policemen alleging that he carries out religious conversions, and hence there will be a detailed investigation into him. As per the pastor, some locals have filed a false police complaint against the pastor for his ministry work.

On 12 December in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, Nitesh Sahni, a 17-year-old boy, travelled gone to participate in a Christian prayer meeting at his aunt's place in Dhanipur village. A team of police came there and took Nitesh to Bansaon police station. Nitesh was booked for religious conversion. As per police, they had some complaints from someone stating that Nitesh was converting people.

On 19 December in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Arun Kumar of AG Church and his son were assaulted by religious extremists and were taken to Chune police station. Pastor and his were accused of religious conversion by religious extremists, but as police investigated the matter it was found out that the allegation was baseless.

On 23 December in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, the assistant pastor of Pastor Devraju D was threatened by a police station officer who said pastors need to stop all kinds of Christian activities. SHO also said you can't hold a Christmas celebration.

On 23 December in Khaga Tahasil, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Amaresh was taken to Khaga Police Station on account of him practising and professing his Christian faith. The pastor was accused of carrying out the religious conversion and was

therefore interrogated. A Christian advocacy group contacted Station House Officer Vijay Rai and requested an unbiased probe into the matter. After questioning, the pastor was released without being charged.

On 23 December in Village Ekdil, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Alok Kumar was celebrating the Christmas program at his own house with 100 to 150 believers. Suddenly, right-wing fanatics came with three policemen and started abusing and threatening Christians. However, the pastor managed to leave the place. Later, he was informed, over the phone, that an FIR had been filed against him, and he was asked to come to the police station.

On 24 December in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, the effigies of Santa Claus were burnt, claiming the mythical figure to be part of a "strategy" by Christian missionaries to convert people. Right-wing activists made a statement that they are strongly opposed to the Christian society's alleged attempts to convert Hindus using the ruse of Santa Claus during Christmas.

On 25 December in Buxa, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, a Christian prayer meeting which was organized on the occasion of Christmas was suddenly barged in by right-wing members and was disrupted. Right-wingers also physically assaulted Pastor Suresh Kumar who was leading the prayer meeting that day and on account of him practising, professing and propagating his Christian faith.

During the afternoon of 25 December in Chandmari, Varanasi, right-wing group members committed acts of arbitrariness against the church. A rally was held at the church in Chandmari by right-wing groups from Sarnath. On a table near the gate of the church, they placed a picture of Hanuman (Hindu Deity) and recited Hanuman Chalisa. There were allegations that people should also be forced to chant Jai Shriram. Also, the right-wing groups had falsely accused Christian missionaries of carrying pit religious conversion.

On 26 December in Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Harish Kumar was conducting a prayer meeting along with his church members. Some religious extremists backed by a political party showed up at the spot where a prayer meeting was going on and disrupted it. They warned pastors and Christians not to conduct prayer meetings in the future.

On 27 December in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, a Christmas program was being organized at the place of Pastor Pradeep Kumar. The neighbour called the police and reported that religious conversion was taking place. The police came and took Pastor Pradeep Kumar, Rajamani, and Chandan Kumar to the Kon police station.

On 27 December in Shivpur village, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Gorakh Nath had visited fellow Christians and was conducting routine prayer and worship. During the prayer meeting, the local police arrived and took the pastor into custody at the Sikariganj police station, where they questioned him as to why he was conducting the prayers.

On 28 December in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Vijay Kumar, who serves with Mission Kashi Sanstha, was doing a Christmas program in an area that falls under police station Gaddi, with his believers. Some policemen came to the prayer venue and had taken Pastor Vijay to the police station. Subsequently, it was allegedly found that some local person had complained to the police by falsely accusing that religious conversion was being carried out under the guise of a prayer meeting.

UTTARAKHAND

On 7 March in Haridwar district, Uttarakhand, two pastors - Hari Prakash and Deepak - were taken into custody by police personnel of the Jagjeetpur police post. The pastors were conducting a church service when police barged in and arrested them on allegations of involving in religious conversion activities. Rohit Singh, a local Christian lawyer, visited the police station and tried to get the pastors released. The pastors were later released without any complaint after police received multiple calls for a fair investigation from advocacy volunteers.

On 25 May, Balkrishna, the top aide of yoga guru Baba Ramdev, took to social media accusing Indian Medical Association President Dr. JohnroseJayalal of “a conspiracy to convert the entire country to Christianity and turn them against yoga and Ayurveda.” The statement had the potential to trigger a hatecampaign against the Christian community in India.

On 13 June in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, Pastor Sanjay Kumar Bharti was taken to the Shyampur police station and was beaten up during interrogation for his alleged involvement in religious conversions done through force and allurement. The pastor was initially accused of breaking lockdown norms and brought to the police station. However, at the police station, he was charged with illegal religious conversion activities and beaten up brutally. Local sources reported that police threatened him to vacate his rented house and leave the village.

On 26 June in Haldwani, Nainital, Pastor Ami Wasah was falsely accused of engaging in religious conversion activity by a woman who was influenced by right-wing religious extremists.

On 15 Aug in Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, four Christian families were stopped from constructing a prayer structure by religious extremists who warned them of dire consequences. Christians were attempting to construct a building to conduct prayer meetings, Bible studies, and fellowship activities.

On 29 August in village Malakpur, Block Laksar, Haridwar Uttarakhand, while Pastor Onkveer John was conducting Sunday prayer services, all of a sudden some religious extremists barged in and accused him of religious conversion activities. They took away all the copies of the Bible, Christian songbooks, and many other assets. Extremists then falsely reported religious conversions to the police, accusing the pastor. Police arrived and took Pastor Omkveer John to the Laksar station.

On 6 September in Khatima, Udham Singh Nagar, an independent pastor Sudhari Prasad was invited to the house where a family member was taken ill in the neighbouring village. While the prayer was in progress, someone video-recorded it and sent it to the police. The pastor Kept on receiving from one unknown person who identified himself as a police constable asking whether he is involved in religious conversion activities and said that he might receive similar calls from the Superintendent of Police and Station House Officer of a local police station.

On 2 October in Nanital, Uttarakhand, Pastor Nandan Bisht was taken to the Ramnagar police station, when he was conducting a prayer meeting. Some religious extremists came to him while he was

conducting his routine weekly prayers and they accused him of carrying out the religious conversion. At the police station, he was again falsely accused of religious conversion. Police booked him and his wife under the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act.

On 3 October in Roorkee, Uttarakhand, around 500 extremists broke into a prayer meeting of 10-15 people who had gathered for Sunday prayer. Both women and men were attacked by the extremists. Five Christians sustained injuries, including Rajat Kumar, who is in critical condition.

On 3 October in Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, right-wingers accompanied by police disrupted and threatened a church service. Vipin Kumar is the pastor of this church. The incident did not cause any injuries. The Christians, however, did not file any complaints.

On 19 October in Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, Govind Prasad Badoni, an activist of a

right-wing group, while addressing the media, falsely accused Christian missionaries by saying that they are converting the poor with the lure of money in and around the region. Hence, a movement will be launched against it by the right-wing organisations. In response to the above comment, the Police superintendent said that misleading information is floating around regarding conversions and people should be alert.

WEST BENGAL

On 10 May in Midnapore, West Bengal, some Christians from a tribal community were blocked from using the road outside their homes on account of their religious beliefs. Religious radicals barricaded the road prohibiting the Christians from commuting.



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