

RELIGION, POLITICS AND VIOLENCE:

A REPORT OF THE HOSTILITY AND INTIMIDATION FACED BY CHRISTIANS IN INDIA IN 2010

KARNATAKA

It is the eighth largest Indian state covering 191,976 sq km, the ninth largest by population and comprises 30 districts. As per 2001 census of India, the total population of Karnataka is 52,850,562, of which Christians number slightly more than 1 million. With at least 56 incidents of anti-Christian violence this, Karnataka for the past two years saw more attacks on Christians in this year than any other state in India .

Tensions are high in the districts of Davangere, Mangalore, Bangalore, and also potentially volatile are the districts of Chickmagalur, Chitradurga, Belgaum, Tumkur, Udupi, Shimoga, Bagalkot, Karwar and Kodagu. The state is ruled by Bharatiya Janata Party.

23 January: In Khatkal, a group of miscreants desecrated a cross put up on the altar of the church leaving it severely disfigured.

24 January: In Bidarikere, Chitradurga , alleged Hindu extremists forced into the worship meeting of Indian Evangelical Mission church and assaulted a Christian worker H. Raju. The extremists accused Raju of forceful conversion, beat him up, and burned up Bibles and Christian literature, threatening him to stop worshipping Jesus or face dire consequences.

25 January: In Hinkal, suspected Hindu extremists damaged a statue, crashed it and pulled it down. Police investigated the matter.

28 January: In Rajpura, Chitradurga, a group of unknown culprits poured gallons of kerosene on Jesus Loves Holy Temple Church, and set the Church on fire and burned it down after threatening Church members to stop worshipping Jesus or face dire consequences.

29 January: In Chitradurga, alleged Hindu extremists set a church on fire and burned it down to ashes

1 February: In Kodagu, police arrested 11 tribal Christians from Beraka Gospel Church after Hindu extremists lodged a complaint against them of forceful conversion

3 February: In Mandhya, miscreant attacked St Matthias church, broke down the doors, took away sacred vessels and clothes kept under the drawer and broke the tabernacle.

4 February: In Mandhya, Hindu extremists vandalized St. Matthias Church, destroying furniture and musical instruments, leaving rubbles behind. Police complaint was lodged.

13 February: In Kundapur Taluk, miscreants destroyed the statue of Infant Jesus, grossly disfiguring it.

28 February: In Karwar, Hindu extremists allegedly led by municipal councilor accused David Lambani and Satish of forceful conversion and beat them up till they fell unconscious on the road.

28 February: In Karwar, alleged Hindu extremists beat up pastor John Quodros and two church members and ordered them to stop constructing the church and to vacate the area.

8 March: In Periyapattunam, Mysore, Hindu extremists disrupted a prayer meeting of Gospel in Action Fellowship and beat Pastor Ravi Chandran, a complaint was lodged at Somvarpet police station.

10 March: In Chellur, police detained Pastor Hanume Nayak of Good Shepherd Community Church after local leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad filed a complaint against them of forceful conversion.

15 March: In Borgunta, Sullai Tulak, police arrested pastor Valsalan of Bethesda Assembly of God's church after alleged Hindu extremists lodged a complaint against him of forceful conversion. The pastor was sent to central jail.

17 March: In Arsikere, a mob of Hindu extremists allegedly from the Bajrang Dal, shouting Hindu slogan exhumed the dead body and dumped it 3kms away from the cemetery claiming that the dead body of a Christian contaminate the soil.

25 March: In Hunsur, police arrested Thammaiah, Sureh, Muthappa from Good Samaritan Church after Hindu extremists force their way into the funeral service of a church member, beat the Christians and lodged a complaint against them of forceful conversion.

6 April: In Kodagu, police arrested 12 pastors on charges of forceful conversion and sent them to jail after the Hindu extremists filed a police complaint against the Christians of forceful conversion.

19 April: In Belur, police detained Guru Gowriah and Puttuswamy Bhadraia for four hours after Hindu extremists verbally abused them for their faith and filed a complaint against them of forceful conversion.

1 May: In Hunsur, police arrested four Christians after alleged Hindu extremists found Christians talking to the local people and thereafter filed a baseless complaint against them of forceful conversion.

2 May: In K.R Nagar, Hindu extremists allegedly from the Bajrang Dal disrupted the Sunday worship service (May 2), verbally abused the Christians for their faith and beat up a pastor Elisha and then filed a case against him under use of un- authorized worship place. Police warned the Christian not to conduct worship meetings in future.

11 May: In Hunnavar, miscreants pelted stoned at Holy Cross Church, damaging window frames and glasses, causing extensive damage to the church properties.

18 May: In Hubli, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the prayer meeting of Evangelist Edward Bellary and three women from Mayer Memorial Church. The extremist beat up the Christians accusing them of forceful conversion.

19 May: In Mandhya, police arrested two Christians after Hindu extremists allegedly from the Bajrang Dal attacked a Vocational Bible School (VBS) and accused Pastor(s) Shanth Kumar and Nagesh Kumar of forceful conversion.

27 May: In Rajanpura, alleged Hindu extremist accused pastor Siddanagowda Barmanagowda of forcible conversion and disrupted a worship service. The extremist dragged the pastor to the police station. The police told Pastor Barmanagowda to vacate his home and leave the area.

7 June: In Chickmagalur, police arrested two Christian women from Jesus Prayer Team after alleged Hindu extremists disrupted the Sunday worship meeting and accused them of creating communal disharmony and of disrupting the peace.

9 June: In Okkere, Belgaum, Police arrested Pastor Vasanthe Kathedar of New India Church after alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a prayer meeting and accused him of creating communal disharmony and disrupting the peace.

13 June: In Anekal, alleged Hindu extremists accused Pastor Sam Joseph of forceful conversion and beat him up. The police force the pastor to declared that he will restrain himself from conducting Christian meetings in future.

16 June: In Karwar, officials closed down Spring of Hope Orphanage & Vocational Arts Training Centre after Hindu extremists filed a complaint against the Christians of forceful conversion.

23 June: In Chandapura, alleged Hindu extremists accused pastor(s) Shidu Kurialose and Hithya Vachanam from Bethel Assembly of God's Church of forceful conversion seriously injuring them.

8 August: In Chitradurga police arrested Pastor Shibu Isaac and Hema Naik after alleged Hindu extremists claimed that the Christians are running girls hostel for forceful conversion purpose and filed a complaint against them.

8 August: In Kanagiri, alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a fasting prayer meeting accusing the Christians of forceful conversion. The Police Sub Inspector took a written statement from the Christians not to conduct meetings in homes and also threatened that he will file a case against them in future if the incident is repeated.

13 August: In Birur, alleged Hindu extremists along with police personnel raided a home prayer group led by Pastor Dileep. The extremists verbally abused the Christians for their faith and took them to the police station. The Christian were released without charges after area Christian leaders' intervention.

15 August: In Mandhya, Police arrested Pastor Satish and Evangelist Ravi after alleged Hindu extremists disrupted the worship meeting, accusing them of forceful conversion and lodged a complaint against them.

19 August: In Bagalkote, Belgaum alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Enoch and two girls from Operational Mobilization as they were screening a film on Jesus. The extremists seized the screening equipment, literature and took them to the police station. The Christians were released after the police sternly warned them not to hold such programme again.

20 August: In Bendwada, Belgaum alleged Hindu extremists accused a pastor of luring people to convert to Christianity and damaged Bibles and Christian literatures. . As the police could not obtained from the extremists an evidence of their allegation against Pastor David of forceful conversion, they forced the pastor to put in writing that he forcefully convert people by inducing them with money and that he will not conduct any Christian meetings in future.

24 August: In Madalawada, Haliya, Christians face social boycott and Father Philip Rock from St. Sebastian Church was charged with ‘causing disharmony’ after Christians refused to follow Hindu rituals and practice to stop the spread of cholera in the area.

29 August: In Mysore, alleged Hindu extremists disrupted the worship meeting of Ebenezer Assembly of God Church and beat up Pastor Ravi George and one church member identified only as Ramu. The Christians sustained serious head and hand injuries and they received hospital treatment. Police complaint was submitted.

1 September: In Mysore, Police stopped a pastors’ meeting in Mysore, claiming that they were being trained to “convert people”. Police arrived and ordered the organizers to vacate the premises by the next day. Even though such trainings are legally permitted in India, the Christians called off the meeting.

3 September: In Ramnagar, police entered a Calvary Fellowship Prayer house church meeting led by Pastor P.R. Jose and ordered him to immediately stop the service. Accusing the Christians of forceful conversion, the police ordered the close down of the church. The matter was solved under area Christian leaders’ help.

5 September: In Doni Gagad, a mob of about 100 Hindu extremists on Sept. 5 barged into the house church worship of a congregation of the Indian Pentecostal Church and beat Pastor Mallikarjuna Sangalad, ripped Bibles, tore his clothes and beat him. Police arrived and arrested Pastor Sangalad, where they ordered him to stop leading worship meetings.

14 September: In Byappanahalli, near Bengaluru, Hindu extremists attacked a church building, accusing area Christians of large-scale, forcible conversion. Under pressured, police issued a notice to the church to stop construction and issued arrest warrants against the pastor and seven others.

19 September: In Santhemarnalli, police led by Inspector Madhava Swamy threatened Pastor Mhades of Good Shepherd Community Church with harm if he did not stop alleged “forceful conversion” activities after Hindu extremists filed the complaint against him.

26 September: In Mundgod, police arrested a Pentecostal pastor, Shivanda Siddi, on false charges of “forceful conversions” after five Hindu extremists stormed the church building while Christians were

praying and began arguing with the pastor. They beat him, stripped him of his clothes and took Bibles from those present.

26 September: In Yellapura, Karwar, alleged Hindu extremists broke into the worship meeting of Gnanodya Church after having filed a complaint against Pastor Shiva Ram of “forcible conversions “ and vandalize the church, pulling down calendars and breaking furniture. Police took the pastor into custody and jailed him.

2 October: In Chintamani, Kolar, About 40 people barged into New Public School during the concluding prayer that morning and began selectively beating the pastors, striking the wife of one of them in the stomach, killing her unborn child. Police arrested two extremists.

6 October: In Beridigere, Davanagere, a Christian family that converted from Hinduism was assaulted because of their faith in Christ. Two members received severe injuries and were hospitalized. The assailants also vandalized the house, damaging the roof and three with large boulders.

October 13: In Emarakuntte, Kolar district, alleged Hindu extremists stormed into a Christian worship service, beat those attending and confiscated Bibles and vehicle and accused the Christians of forceful conversion. Police forced the pastor to give a written statement that he would stop Christian activities in the village. Only then were the Bibles and vehicle returned. No worship was held on Sunday (Oct. 10).

15 October: In Bidra, Chikmagalur, Police detained pastor Surendra for more than three hours after Hindu nationalists disrupted the worship of Calvary Assemblies of God Church and beat him alleging forceful conversion.

20 October: In Bellakatte village, near Chitradurga, Pastor Mallappa Hanumanthappa Andrew of Samadhana Prayer House and his brother were walking on a village road when six area extremists waylaid them and began slapping the pastor, accusing him of forcible conversion. Police arrested four extremists, charged them with unlawful assembly and released them after two hours.

29 October: In Uttara Kannada, Police detained five Christians for about 6 hours after they barged into Blessing Youth Mission Church accompanied by alleged Hindu extremists and media persons. The Christians were released without charges.

29 October 29: In Nelamangala, Bangalore, Police arrested Pastor Muthyalan Paul on Oct. 26 in Nelamangala, Bangalore, after Muslim radicals barged into a prayer meeting, accused him of forceful conversion, tore Bibles and damaged household items. The Christian was released on bail the next day.

2 December: In Udayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka police arrested Pastor Johnson after Hindu extremists beat him up and accused him of forceful conversion. The pastor was sent to Bangalore central jail.

2 December: In Hova Maru, near Bangalore, a mob of about 20 alleged Hindu extremists led by Majunath threatened to rape a Christian convert woman, Vijayalakshmi, if she did not convert back to Hinduism.

5 December: In Kengeri, Bangalore alleged Hindu extremists pressurized the Slum Board administrative to demolished Gypsy Prayer Church. Under pressured, the board subsequently issued an order to demolish the church.

5 December: In Shimoga, police arrested four Christians after alleged Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal disrupted their prayer meeting, verbally abused them for their faith and dragged them to the police station.

8 December: In Gonikoppa, Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal attacked Christians from Shakina Full Gospel Church amid their prayer meeting seriously injuring two persons. Police advised the Christians not to conduct future prayer meetings for security purposes

CHHATTISGARH

With its capital Raipur, Chhattisgarh is flanked by Madhya Pradesh on the northwest, Maharashtra on the west, Andhra Pradesh on the south, Orissa on the east, Jharkhand on the northeast and Uttar Pradesh on the north with the state having 176.15 lakhs population. Chhattisgarh has a higher proportion of Scheduled Tribes and Schedule Castes. Tribals constitute about 32.5% of the total population of the state.

Of the 176.15 lakhs total population, Christians make up about 1.71 percent. The state witnessed the second highest rate of attack against the Christians this year. The state is ruled by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

22 January: In Champa, police arrested eight Christians under Section 3 and 4 of the Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Act after Hindu extremists filed a complaint against them of forceful conversion. The Christians were sent to Jangir jail.

20 February: In Champa, police arrested a Christian worker, Adhwan, on charges of forceful conversion and sent him to Champa jail. The Christian was released on bail on the following day.

6 March: In Kawarda, police arrested six Christians after Hindu extremists lodged a complaint against them of forceful conversion but later released them on bail.

9 March: In Kawarda, alleged Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal beat Pastor Sanatan Masih of The Christian Church and warned him to leave the area.

21 March: In Nandini, Durg, police arrested three Christians after alleged Hindu extremists lodged a complaint against them of insulting the national flag. The extremists carrying the national flag entered into the Personality Development Centre for Youth, attacked the students and teachers, burned Bibles and gospel literatures.

21 March: In Raipur, alleged Hindu extremists allegedly stopped the Sunday prayer meeting of Ebenezer church, accused the Christians of forceful conversion, tore Bible and Christian literature and closed the church. The police detained the Christians for seven hours in the station.

21 March: In Kasdol, alleged Hindu extremists forced their way into the Sunday worship service of Believers Church, threatened and verbally abused the Christians and confiscated Bibles and other literatures. Police detained the Christians for three hours.

27 March: In Bilaspur, alleged Hindu extremists allegedly accused the church members of Assembly of God's church of forceful conversion, disrupted the special meeting of the church and verbally abused the Christians for their faith.

4 April: In Bilaspur, alleged Hindu extremist allegedly stopped the Easter Sunday worship of Church of North India (CNI) and accused pastor Bhaktu Lakda and church members of forceful conversion.

15 April: In Bhilai, police arrested four Christians after Hindu extremists filed a complaint against them of forcible conversion. The extremists beat up the Christians from Bhilai Brethen Church and they were sent to Durg jail.

13 May: In Maroda, Bhilai, alleged Hindu extremists alleged attacked a cottage prayer meeting conducted in Dewangoan's house and accused the Christians of forceful conversion. Police detained Dewangoan, for about four hours and released him after warning him to stop conducting prayer meeting his house.

17 May: In Jagbalpur, allegedly Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal attacked Children Development Programme (CDP) and beat Pastor Rahul Pant and two teachers. Subsequently the programme was stopped.

29 August: In Sivaho, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, police arrested Pastor Dilip Chakradhari, Ganga Ram and Shankar Lal after Hindu extremists filed a complaint against them of forceful conversion. The Christians were sent to Dhamtari jail on the day of arrests.

12 September: In Rajgarh alleged Hindu extremists beat evangelist Robinson Roat and ordered him to stop all Christian activities. They told him he would face further harm if he left his house. The Christian did not venture out for two days.

15 September: In Raipur, Hindu extremists misrepresenting themselves as journalists barged into a prayer meeting led by Pastor Kamlakarrao Bokada and accused him of "forceful conversion," verbally abused him and falsely accused him of dishonoring their idols. Police refused to register a complaint by Christ.

28 September: In Rajnandgan, alleged Hindu extremists assaulted Pastor Suresh Deep as he went to the police station to get one church member out on bail, who was falsely charged for joining an assembly likely to cause a disturbance. The extremists verbally abused pastor Deep, beat him and forced him to drink dirty water and to write that he would refrain from any conversion activity. Police registered a case against the attackers.

6 November: In Raipur, Alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a Christian youth meeting and accused an organization, Vision India, of forcible conversion for conducting the meeting. Police ordered the organizers to submit a list of participants and the meeting was concluded under heavy police protection.

15 November: In Raipur, Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal barged into the Sunday worship meeting of a house church of Roopesh Kumar and attack the Christians. The extremists verbally abused the Christians, kicked and slapped them and later dragged to the police station. The officer released the Christians without charges after strictly warning them not to conduct future meetings at their home or face dire consequences.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh, extending over an area of 2,75,045 sq.km is the fifth largest state in India both in terms of area as well as population. The population according to 2001 census was 66,500,000 with Christians making 2.35 percent of the population.

The state saw the third highest rate of attack against the Church from January to August this year. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa bound the state in the North, the Bay of Bengal in the East, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on the South and Karnataka and Maharashtra on the West.

Among the tense areas where Christians frequent faced difficulties are Mahaboobnagar, Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Ranga Reddy district. The state is ruled by the Indian National Congress Party.

10 January: In Hyderabad, alleged Hindu extremists attacked the worship service of Haven's Glory Church and beat up Christians including women and children.

22 January: In Pahari Shariff, Hyderabad, suspected Hindu extremists burned down a church to ashes, causing serious injury to a pastor in his attempts to extinguish the fire. FIR was registered.

29 January: In Secunderabad, Hindu extremists accused Pastor Satyam Yellasiri of Good Shepherd Community Church of forceful conversion and forced him to eat the food offered to Hindu idols.

1 February: In Madiga Konda, Krishna District, a 25 foot tall Hoy Cross was attacked, apparently with a sharp –object leaving the Holy Cross severely disfigured.

8 February: In Kalalada Mandal, a group of miscreants set ablaze the newly built church, after splashing several gallons of kerosene and set it ablaze. The lost is estimated to be around 3 lakhs.

31 March: In R.R District, alleged Hindu extremists interrupted the worship service of Almighty God Church, broke the window glasses of the church and threatened Pastor Pusuloori Yohan to close the church or face dire consequences.

26 April: In Mahaboobnagar, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor(s) Daniel and Joshua, damaged church furniture and sound system. The extremists on the next day beat the two pastors and ordered them not to conduct Christian meetings in future.

9 May: In Nellore, alleged Hindu extremists tried to burn a pastor and his church after one extremist identified only as Babu barged into the meeting disturb the service but sadly died on the next day, Blaming the pastor for the death of the attacker, they attacked the pastor and urged him to leave the area.

23 May: In Tadipatri, Anapatpur, allegedly Hindu extremists allegedly from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh damaged the church construction of Holy Spirit Prayer and installed an idol of the Hindu god Hanuman inside the hall.

24 May: In Mahabubnagar, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor T.Paul as he was returning from a worship meeting. The extremists pulled the pastor out from his vehicle and beat him up.

12 June: In Ranga Reddy, suspected Hindu extremists stoned Don Bosco Church, broke the statues of Mother Mary installed in the church's premises and pelted stoned to the church.

6 June: In Parawada Mandal, Vishakapatnam, alleged Hindu extremists pulled down a church and threatened the believers to leave the area after they opposed to the church construction and also beat up Pastor Philip.

17 September: In Kurnool, Police arrested a Christian convert from Islam, Sheik Magbool, after Muslim extremists filed a complaint against him of uttering derogatory remarks against the prophet of Islam, Muhammad, in Kurnool. Area Christian leaders maintained that the tracts did not contain any hateful remarks against Muhammad; they asserted that the Muslim extremists reprinted the tracts after adding some lines insulting to Muhammad in order to fabricate a case against the Christians.

13 September: In Vizianagaram , Hindu extremists attacked a pastor's wife during his absence , injuring her head after they threatened Pastor Y. Caleb Raj of the Good Shepherd Community Church to close the church and leave the area the day before.

12 December: In Guntalal, miscreants chopped off the heads of the statues of Saint John and Mary Magdalene and disfigured Mother Mary's face in the replica of Calvary near the Shrine.

MADHYA PRADESH

Madhya Pradesh, often called the Heart of India, is a state in central India. It borders the states Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The state has an area of 308,252 km² (119,017 sq mi).

Since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in Madhya Pradesh in December 2003, Christians in the state have suffered increased attacks and concerted efforts to tarnish their image, reported church leaders. Madhya Pradesh has a Christian population of 170,381, only 0.3 percent of the total in the state, according to the 2001 census. The state's history of religious intolerance runs deep, with an "anti-conversion" law passed in 1968 that has served as a pretext for harassing Christians. The state saw the fourth highest rate of anti-Christian violence across the country from January to August this year. The State is ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

28 March: In Jabalpur, alleged Hindu extremists accused Pastor Francis Xavier of Apostolic Christian Assemblies and six church members of forceful conversion and disrupted the worship meeting. The Christians were released without any charges as the police found that the allegations against them were false and baseless.

15 April: In Balaghat, Hindu extremists allegedly from the Bajrang Dal hurled a petrol bomb into the three days Christian convention, disrupted the prayer meeting of a Christian convention, accusing them of forceful conversion and beat them up. The meeting was concluded under police protection.

17 April: In Betul, armed Hindu extremists disrupted a Christian crusade when people in fright started running off in different directions to escape the attack including Pastor Amit Gilbert. After realizing that Pastor Amit Gilbert was lost, a search team was formed and they found his dead body in the well. A large section of area Christians believes that Gilbert was forcefully thrown into the well.

5 July: In Jabalpur, police arrested Pastor Vishal Lal and Sharavan Kumar from the Apostolic Christian church after Hindu extremists accused them of forceful conversion. The pastors were released on bail the following day.

16 July: In Balaghat, unidentified assailants demolished a church construction. About 30 men at about the same time, in July 2009, entered the pastor house and dragged him out to beat him. He escaped when villagers heeded his cries and came to his rescue.

18 July: In Barwada, alleged Hindu extremists on 18 July disrupted the Christian worship meeting conducted by Pastor Subhash Chauhan of the Indian Evangelical Team, threatening the pastor not to continue with Christian activities in the area or face dire consequences.

20 July: In Balaghat, alleged Hindu extremists accused two Christians workers, Mahindra Kharoley and Munshi Bahey of forceful conversion, severely beat them and left them bleeding on the jungle road.

15 August: In Dhanora, Lakhnadon, opposing the Christian for his faith, alleged Hindu extremists threatened a convert Christian Achelal Jhariya and filed a police complaint against him of forceful conversion and that he has constructed his house for conversion activities to the government officials.

16 August: In Dhar, police arrested Pastor (s) Balu Pita Kesav and Rajesh Pita Alam after alleged Hindu extremists beat them up disrupted their prayer meeting.

12 September: In Satna, Hindu extremists accused Pastor V.A. Anthony of “forceful conversion” and of carrying out the funeral of a non-Christian in a local Christian cemetery. Based on the complaint of the Hindu extremists, the inspector general of police summoned Pastor Anthony and a high-level inquiry is pending. The son of a local church member had died under mysterious circumstances earlier this year, and the pastor and church members had buried him in the Christian cemetery according to the wishes of his parents and other relatives.

16 September: In Jabalpur, alleged Hindu extremists attacked a building belonging to the Believers Church in Jabalpur, bringing it to the ground, claiming that they would not allow any church to exist in the area.

19 October: In Chattarpur, alleged Hindu extremists accused Pastor Kunal Parichha of forcibly converting people and sending them to Bible College and threatened to harm his life if he continued to conduct worship services.

31 October: In Neemuch, alleged Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal barged into a worship meeting shouting Hindu slogans and accused Rev. K. Abraham and church members of forceful conversion by offering people monetary benefits.

UTTAR PRADESH

With an area of 93,933 sq mi (243,290 kms), Uttar Pradesh covers a large part of the highly fertile and densely populated upper Gangetic plain. It shares an international border with Nepal to the north along with the Indian state of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh to the north-west, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan on the west, Madhya Pradesh on the south, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand on the south east and Bihar on the east.

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India with a population of over 190 million people of which Christians constitutes about less than 1 percent. The state is considered to be the birth place of Hinduism. According to our record, the state witnessed 7 attacks against the church in the first eight months of this year. The State is ruled by Bahujan Samaj Party.

25 March: In Ekta Vihar, Ghaziabad, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Gladwin Masih and one church member as they were returning back home after worship meeting and beat them up with cricket stumps and hockey sticks.

15 April: In Mohan area, Unnao, police arrested Budhi Ram and Vijay Phule after Hindu extremists lodged a complaint against them of making derogatory remarks against the Hindu gods while they were conducting a prayer meeting.

6 May: In Kanpur, Hindu extremists allegedly from the Bajrang Dal attacked a prayer meeting, damaged the church board, beat up Pastor Dalayu, accusing him of forceful conversion and threatened to kill his one year son.

5 September: In Naggal, members of Arya Samaj, sect of Hinduism disrupted a church service and accused Pastor Rockwell Louis of Masih Satsang Mandali of eating meat and converting people. The mob argued that the Bible is wrong and presents a false God. They had warned that they would return September 12 and would not allow Sunday worship service to take place.

12 September: In Naggal, 35 members of Arya Samaj, sect of Hinduism disrupted a church service and argued with Pastor Rockwell Louis of Masih Satsang Mandali and accused him and church people of forceful conversion. Police rescued the Christians

20 June: in Gorakhpur, alleged Hindu extremists shouting anti- Christian slogans disrupted the Sunday worship Service, accused Pastor Benny George from Apostolic Christian Assembly Church of forceful conversion and threatened him not to conduct Christian meetings in future or face dire consequences.

23 July: In Kanpur, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the worship meeting of Indian Pentecostal, verbally abused the Christians for their faith and told them to close down the meeting. Subsequently, the meeting was closed down.

24 July: In Telibag, police detained four Bible students who were engaged in serving the poor and underprivileged in the area accusing them of forceful conversion. The students were released without charges after questioning.

8 August: In Mailani Lakimpur Kheri, alleged Hindu extremists accompanied by police stormed a Christian prayer meeting in Mailani town, took Pastor Robert W. Samson to the police station. Allegedly, the police threatened to shut down the church and prohibited the congregation from gathering there next Sunday.

5 September: In Jhansi, alleged armed Hindu nationalists from the extremist beat pastor Anil Masih in Sarva village in Babina, Jhansi district. Masih received hospital treatment for a broken left leg. Police complaint was lodged but no arrests were made.

ORISSA

The State of Orissa is located in the eastern coast of India at 17 Degree and is surrounded by Andhra Pradesh on the South-East, Madhya Pradesh on the West, Bihar in North, West Bengal in North-East and Bay of Bengal in the East. The State has total area of 15,5707 sq. km. The total population stood at 36,706,920 as per the Census of India 2001. Christian form only 2.4 percent of the state's population. The state is ruled by the Biju Janata Party.

3 February: In Kandhamal, police arrested 11 Christians based on the complaint lodged by Hindu extremists of 'assault'. The incident took place when the extremists started beating the Christians when the latter verbalized their rights to worship Jesus.

20 February: In Bhabanipatna, police arrested the Rev. Anant Prasad Samantray after Hindu extremists lodged a complaint against him of delivering derogatory remarks against Hinduism .Christians claimed that there was no such remark.

June 8: In Nuapada, alleged Hindu extremists brutally attacked Bhakta Bihar for his faith in Jesus and threatened to kill him if he and his family continue to believe in Christ claiming that they do not allow the existence of Christians in the area.

June 9: In Sambalpur, Hindu extremists allegedly from the Bajrang Dal accused Pastor Lamuel Patnaik , Pastor N. Philemon and Sudhir Kumar of forceful conversion and attacked them. The pastors were invited by Biranchi Kistotta to celebrate the healing of his son whom Pastor Panaik had prayed for some few days back.

August 20: In Kapingia, Kandhamal suspected Hindu extremists assaulted a Christian, Subhash Nayak, as he made his way home to Laburi village. It was reported that villagers in Laburi have planned to attack atleast one Christian around that date every year, marking the death of a Hindu leader Swami Laxamananda Saraswati.

14 October: In Palikamara, Puri, alleged Hindu extremists confined three recent converts to Christianity in a house, assaulted them, pressured them to deny their new faith and expelled them from their village. Police rescued the Christians and warned the extremists not to disturb them again.

KERALA

Kerala is a state in South West India. The state has an area of 38,863 kms and is bordered by Karnataka to the north, Tamil Nadu to the south and the east and the Lakshadweep towards the west. The state has a literacy rate of 94.59 percent, the highest in India. Of the total population of 3,18,41,374 Christians are about 19 percent. The state is ruled by Democratic Left Front

The origin of Kerala's Christians dates back to 52 A.D when St. Thomas came to the region landing in the port of Cranganore near Cochin. The state witnessed five attacks against the Christian community.

11 February: In Alappuzha, miscreants damaged a grotto of the Pius X church near the Women and Child Hospital in the Beach Ward.

29 March: In Madakara, Wayanand, police detained Pastor Easow Varghese, his wife and three children, Evg Biju P. George after Hindu extremists accused them of denigrating Hindu gods. The extremists stopped them as they were returning home after a film show, beat them up and took them to the police station. The Christians were released without charges after area Christian leaders' intervention.

12 April: In Kozhikode, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Ponnachen from Assembly of God's church, pelted stones at his house when after worship service, the Christians screened a film on social cause.

17 April: In Perumbavoor, alleged Hindu extremists attacked two Christians from Young Men Evangelical Fellowship (YMEF) who were distributing tracts in Christian homes and burned all their tracts.

4 July: In Muvatupuzha, allegedly eight Islamic extremists cut off a Christian professor's T.J Joseph's hand for preparing a question with an allegedly objectionable reference to Prophet Mohammed.

22 September: In Vikas colony, Ambalavayal, alleged Muslim extremists beat a Christian convert from Islam after they saw him worshipping Jesus on Sept. 22 in Vikas colony, Ambalavayal.. The radicals also damaged Pastor Chacko's pipeline, the source for water for about 10 Christian families, and pelted the pastor's home with stones, damaging the house.

HARYANA

Haryana, a state in India, is bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the north, and by Rajasthan to the west and south. The river Yamuna defines its eastern border with Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Haryana also surrounds Delhi on three sides, forming the northern, western and southern borders of Delhi. Consequently, a large area of Haryana is included in the National Capital Region.

The population of Haryana, according to the 2001 census, is 21,144,000, with about Christians numbering 27,185. The state is ruled by the Indian National Congress.

25 March: In Faridabad, miscreants attacked a Roman Catholic school after the authorities declared that school fees have to be clear up by students. Parents, numbering 25 forcefully intruded into the principal's office and assaulted one faculty member, threatening to burn the school building and "make it like Kandhamal in Orissa".

22 August: In Qutabgarh, New Delhi, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Isaac Laal from New Church of India, accusing him of forceful conversion and threatened to harm his life if he continues to conduct prayer meetings in future.

MAHARASTRA

According to the 2001 census, Maharashtra exists as the second most populous state. It holds about 96,752,247 inhabitants with a density of 322.5 people per sq.mt and Christian's number about 1 percent of the total population. The state is ruled by the Indian National Congress with the National Congress Party.

1 August: In Orlem, alleged Hindu extremists ransacked Church of North India's St Emmanuel Church. Church members Ponkumar Nadar and Nadarshish Nadar sustained serious injuries and received treatment in a local hospital.

11 August: In Pimpri Chinchwad, Police deported five South Koreans including three women after alleged Hindu extremists filed a complaint against them of forceful conversion. The Christians maintained that they were not involved in any conversion attempt and were only conducting Bible reading sessions in Christian homes.

8 December: In Worli, suspected Hindu extremists attacked Christian carols, kicked, punched and dragged them to the police station. Police did not register a case.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu is the eleventh largest state in India by area and it lies in the southernmost part of the Indian Peninsula and is bordered by the States of Puducherry , Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It is bound by the Eastern Ghats in the north, the Nilgiri, the Anamalai Hills, and Palakkad on the west, by the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Gulf of Mannar, the Palk Strait in the south east, and by the Indian Ocean in the south.

According to the 2001 census, the total population stood at 6.29 million. The state covers an area of 191,976 square kilometers (74,122 sq mi), or 5.83% of the total geographical area of India and Christians number about 37 lakhs. The state is ruled by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

23 March: In Tiruppur, Hindu extremists accused five pastors of carrying gospel tracts to glorify Christianity and filed a police complaint against them. The police after an enquiry found the Christian innocent and released them.

22 June: In Mathikere, Hosur, opposing the Christian convention held on June 17-20, alleged Hindu extremists burned at least seven vehicles belonging to Jesus with Us Pentecostal Church.

15 August: In Tanjore, police detained Pastor S Martin Rajasekaran after alleged Hindu extremists stopped the Sunday worship service, chased away the congregation, seized church's sound system and dragged the pastor to the police station. The police released him after giving him an order passed by the Law and Order Department barring him from conducting worship meetings at his residence.

30 September: In Theni, Police detained evangelist V.K. Williams and seven other Christians after Hindu extremists disrupted their evangelistic meeting and filed a complaint against the Christians of "forceful conversion" and pressured police to arrest them. Police took the eight Christians to the station for questioning.

RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan is the largest state of the Republic of India by area. It Rajasthan covers an area of 132,150 sq mi or 342,239 km². The proportion of the state's total area to the total area of the country is 10.41 per cent. There are about 58 million people with Christians numbering less than 1 percent of the total population. The Rajasthan government passed an anti-conversion law in the state assembly in April 2006, when the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was in power. The bill is still awaiting the governor's assent. The BJP led the government of Rajasthan from March 1990 to November 1998, and again from December 2003 to December 2008, when the Left-of-Center Congress Party won the election. The state is ruled by the Indian National Congress.

The incidence of Christian persecution is said to have decreased since the BJP's defeat in the 2008 state election, with the exception of sporadic incidents.

17 January: In Udaipur, armed Hindu extremists allegedly from the RSS disrupted a prayer meeting and beat up Christians from Faith Calvary Church, leaving them with serious injuries.

17 August: In Pratapgarh, Rajasthan, Narayan Lal(20), volunteer teacher in a 10-day Vacation Bible School organized was found dead in a jungle. The family suspects that he was killed by Hindu nationalist as he had been threatened a number of times by extremists prior to the incident.

26 August: In Udaipur, alleged Hindu extremists attacked evangelists Charlie John and V.M George as they were distributing gospel tracts. The extremists damaged their vehicle, seized literature from them and beat them up. Police came to their rescue.

BIHAR

Bihar is a state situated in the eastern part of India. Its capital is Patna. Bihar is the third most populated state of India with the total Population of 82.88 million, Density of population in Bihar is 880 per square kilometers. Christians' number less than 1 percent (53,137).The state is ruled by National Democratic Alliance.

It is bordered on the north by the Kingdom of Nepal, on the west by Uttar Pradesh, south by Jharkhand, and the east by West Bengal. Bihar lies in the very fertile Gangetic plains, and is part of the Hindi-speaking heartland of India.

28 June: In Patna, miscreants with their faces covered shot a catholic priest, seriously injured him in Mokama, about 100 km from Bihar's capital Patna.

7 August: In Raxual, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Singhasini Church, pasted several pictures of Hanuman (Hindu idol) on the church wall and threatened Christians that they will do further harm

PUNJAB

Punjab is a region in the north-west of the Indian subcontinent. It is mainly inhabited by people of the ethno-linguistic Punjabi community. The region is split over two countries India and Pakistan, which both contain states called Punjab. The Punjabi culture is spread over various states and territories, including Haryana and Delhi. The northernmost parts of both the Indian and Pakistani states reach the foot of the. The Pakistani side is bordered by North West Frontier while the Indian side is bordered by Himachal Pradesh.

Christians in Punjab number about 1.1 percent of the total 2.43 million populations. The state is ruled by Shiromani Akali Dal.

20 February: In Batala, Hindu extremists burned up two churches after the area Christians protested against a hoarding having picture of Jesus Christ in an objectionable manner.

10 July: In Gurdaspur, police detained 12 Christians including five women after alleged Hindu extremists beat them up and filed a complaint against them of forceful conversion.

14 November: In Moti Nagar, Ludiana, alleged armed Hindu extremists beat up a Christian, Bindeshwar, and threatened to harm him and his family if they attended Sunday worship meetings. Police detained three extremists but later released them without charges

11 September: In Malerkotla town of Punjab, following rumours of burning of a Quran in the US, a mob gathered and proceeded to the town's only church in Loha Bazar, shouting slogans against the US government. The mob then set furniture of the church on fire before the police intervened

WEST BENGAL

West Bengal is a state in the eastern region of India and is the nation's fourth most populous. It is also the seventh most populous sub-national entity in the world. West Bengal, together with Bangladesh lying on its east, forms the historical and geographical region of Bengal. To its northeast lie the states of Assam and Sikkim and the country of Bhutan, and to its southwest lies the state of Orissa. To the west, it borders the states of Jharkhand and Bihar, and to the northwest, Nepal.

According to the 2001 census, there were 515,150 Christians in West Bengal, or 0.6% of the population. Although Mother Teresa worked in Kolkata, Christianity is a minority in Kolkata as well. The state is ruled by the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

26 September: In Kenda, Hindu extremists stopped a worship service and dragged Christians out, saying no more prayer or worship should take place in the village and threatening to kill the Christians if they did not convert to Hinduism. The officers summoned both parties to the police station, but the extremists threatened to kill the Christians if they went.

28 November: In Natungram, alleged Muslims radical boycotted a convert Christian woman from Islam, restricted them from selling and buying and threatened them not to attend church services and to impose a fine on her if she continues to follow Jesus Christ.

UTTARAKHAND

According to 2001 India census, Uttarakhand had a population of approximately of 8.48 million. Hindus form the majority of the population at 85.0%, Muslims form 10.5%, Sikhs 2.5% and Christians, Buddhists, Jains and others about 0.5%. Uttarakhand is located in the northern part of India. Known for its natural beauty, it was carved out of Himalayan and adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh. The percentage of Christianity comes at about 0.5 of the total population. The state is ruled by Bharatiya Janata Party.

25 April: In Rooria, Haridwar, police arrested Pastor Jaswant Singh after Hindu extremists allegedly from the Hindu Jagrang Manch (Hindu Awareness Platform) disrupted the prayer meeting, verbally abused them for their faith and later filed a complaint against the pastor of forceful conversion.

9 November: In Haridwar, Police arrested Pastor Manoj Kumar from The Indian Pentecostal Church on false charges of 'forceful conversion' and threatened to harm his life and uttered derogatory remarks against then Christians.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Located in the northernmost state of India, mostly in the Himalayan mountains, Jammu and Kashmir shares a border with the states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to the south and internationally with the People's Republic of China to the north and east and the Pakistani administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, to the west and northwest respectively. The percentage of Christianity comes at about 0.5 of the total population. The State is ruled by National Conference in alliance with the Indian National Congress.

July 20: Foreigners Registration Officer issued a notice to a senior Christian worker, Father Jim Borst to quit India after an alleged complaint against him for indulging in forceful conversions. Father Borst has been running Good Shepherd School since 1963.

13 September: In Tangmang town, following rumors of burning of a Quran in the US, angry mobs, torched a Christian missionary school of the Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson Educational Society, the office of the social welfare department and a police vehicle. The school students are not hurt. The building was completely burned down but no students were hurt.

TRIPURA

Tripura is the second most populous state in North-East India, after Assam. According to the census of 2001, Tripura has a total population of 3,199,203, with a density of 305 persons per square kilometer, and ranks 22nd among Indian states. It constitutes 0.31% population of India and 8.18% of the Northeast. In the 2001 census of India, Bengalis represent almost 70% of Tripura's population and the native tribal populations represent 30% of Tripura's population. The tribal population comprises several different tribes and ethnic groups with diverse languages and cultures with the largest tribal group being the Kokborok-speaking tribes of the Tripuri (16% of the state's population), the Jamatia, the Reang, and the Noatia tribal communities. Tripura is surrounded by Bangladesh on the north, south and west. The Indian states of Assam and Mizoram lie to the east.

According to the census in 2001 there were 102,489 Christians in the state. Christians in the state are mostly from the native Tripuri people and other indigenous tribes. The state is ruled by Communist Party of India (Marxist).

6 November: In Burburi, Hindu extremists attacked a prayer meeting and ordered the Christians not to open their mouth or make any sound while they are praying and pelted the Christians with stones. The meeting was concluded under police protection.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Arunachal Pradesh is a state of India, located in the far northeast. It borders the states of Assam and Nagaland to the south, and shares international borders with Burma in the east, Bhutan in the west, and the People's Republic of China in the north. The majority of the territory is claimed by the People's Republic of China as part of South Tibet scattered over 12 towns 3862 villages, Arunachal Pradesh is said to have the lowest density of population. In the Arunachal Pradesh, the density of population is 13 persons in every square kilometer of the land with a total of about 1,091,117 with about 10.29% Christians in the state. The state is ruled by Indian National Congress.

7 October: In Hayuliang, Anjaw, Hindu extremists demolished a church structure, completely bringing it down. Lohit Mishmi Baptist Churches Association (LMBCA) lodged a police complaint the next day, but no arrest has been made.

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