



# Islamophobia through New Media: A Critical Analysis of Fake News

Authors

**Mr. Abhirup Bhadra- Student, MA Mass Communication and Journalism, XIM University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

**Mr. Amit Kumar Singh- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arka Jain University, Jharkhand**

**Abstract** - Fake news is one of the most crucial and spreadable disease the world is facing now due to the advancement of communication technology. Especially in India, which is a religiously rich country can be seen to getting distorted because of the fake news framed against Islam, creating a communal imbalance between Hindus and Muslims. The study tried to examine such fake news content from a fact checking website, ALT news and found out the reality behind them as well as the mode through which it was disseminated. It was evidently found that news reports from new media sites in form of short video clips uploaded in YouTube, Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook and reports from digital newspaper are framing Muslim community in a negative way to incite violence against them. The reports shows that Twitter post from verified accounts specially handled by right wing party workers on false claims are immediately spread and accepted without prior fact checking which shows how political party can misuse the media and can shape the mindset of the consumers. Thus, it's important to understand the nature of media, its power of spreading misinformation to mass and motive behind disseminating this kind of information, thus it's suggested to scrutinize these kinds of reports before forwarding them further.

**Keywords-** Fake News, Main Stream News, Social media, New Media, Islam, Islamophobia

## Introduction

India has experienced the problem of false news in the media, just like any other nation. The Indian news has frequently been accused of disseminating false information or sensationalizing news stories without conducting adequate checks. Ample examples like the JNU sedition controversy 2018, Kathua rape case 2018 and the infamous Tablighi Jamat case 2020 during pandemic times and many others proved that Indian main stream media is not immune of the virus of misinformation.

The aftermath of incidents like false news about Muslims spreading the virus on purpose was circulated on digital media during the COVID-19 outbreak in India. As a result, there was a nationwide surge of attacks on Muslim-owned

businesses. social media was used in 2019 to disseminate untrue accusations that Muslims in India have praised the 9/11 attacks. Fact-checking groups discovered the rumors to be unfounded and rejected them. (The Quint,.2019). Untrue allegations about a Muslim man being assaulted by a Hindu crowd in the town of Gurugram were circulated on social media. The rumors were proven to be untrue, and the individual in question refuted any claims of an attack. (Indian Express, 2019)

All these disseminations of fake news caused a severe mental effect on the community which targeted them as another group that can cause harm to their local vicinity which ultimately resulted in developing hatred among non-Muslim groups. Moreover, it can also be noted that factors like political rhetoric, the dissemination of misleading info and false news, and the development of new media as well as the rise of Hindu nationalism, that was fanned by the current Bharatiya Janata Party, is one of the main causes of the development in hate speech towards Muslims in India (BJP). BJP has indeed been charged with advancing an agenda that is divisive and aims to marginalize Muslims. Due to this, occurrences of mob lynching, hate speech, and intergroup conflict have increased nationwide. Serious repercussions from the surge in anti-Muslim hate speech in India include an uptick in intergroup conflict, prejudice, and marginalization of the Muslim population. The social fabric of the nation has also been impacted, with communities growing more divided and distrust of one another.

### **The Muslim demographic status in India**

Out of the 1.21 billion people accounted in the census of 2011, 17.20 crore or 172 million (14.23%) classified as Muslims or followers of Islam. After Indonesia, India has the second-highest Muslim population of the world and second-largest religion in India.

Lakshadweep and Jammu and Kashmir both have a majority of Muslims who identify as Muslims. Muslims make up a significant portion of the populations of Assam (34.22%), West Bengal (27.01%), Kerala (26.56%), Uttar Pradesh (19.26%), and Bihar (16.87%).

Around 21 crore people, or 15% of India's population, will be Muslims by 2023. Shia Muslims make up 13% of India's Muslim population, with Sunni Muslims making up the majority (85%). Bohra, Khoja, Ahmadiyya, and Quranists are also minorities in small numbers around the nation.

### **Fake news and its definition**

Although the practice of fake news is not new to journalism, it is well-known in the world of digital communication today. Today, it is debated by both the general public and communication experts, and many studies have been conducted to better understand the phenomena and offer suggestions for methods to lessen the harm caused by the creation and dissemination of false information to the general population. Because it is such an unprecedented phenomenon that, fake news now sometimes seems more genuine than actual (Berkowitz and Schwartz, 2015).

Scholars have not yet come up with a definitive definition of fake news. The expressions "intentional deception" (Finneman and Thomas, 2018), "information disorder" (Claire Wardle mentioned in Jorgensen et al., 2018), and

"similar to actual news" are several that are used to describe false news (Tandoc et al., 2018). False information of varying degrees is referred to as fake news, which is also used to criticize the media and journalism. There are two types of fake news: purposeful and unplanned. Examples of unintentional fake news include poor reporting and propaganda (Quandt et al. 2019). According (Jorgensen et al. 2018), the concept of false news can be viewed in the context of the larger problem of "information disorder." It is believed that a lot of what is referred to be fake news is either used out of contexts or is the product of journalistic manipulation. Fake news can range from satire news, which is least damaging, to created information, which is most harmful to the viewer. Yet, the damage caused by fake news extends beyond the effect it has on the audience and includes the "fake news tag," which serves as a tool to discredit news organizations.

Dai and Lasorsa (2001) on the grounds of journalistic activities, identified seven categories of fake news: full fabrication (total fabrication of a news story), fact fabrication (fabrication of particular components of a story), dateline fabrication (where the correspondent was not present at the scene they were recognized as being), source fabrication (invention of a source), quote fabrication (providing false a quote), plagiarism (repeating another person's work), and use of an uncited byline.

False information is nothing new in journalism. For instance, historically, muckraking has involved fabricating facts and information. Fake news is, however, much more pervasive now that we live in the digital age since it is so simple to create and spread. Social media is believed to be the primary cause of this behavior in this case.

According to Newman et al. (2017), the use of WhatsApp and other social media platforms for news has increased. For instance, usage in Malaysia was 51%, with Brazil coming in second place with 46% and Spain coming in third with 32%.

Social media's popularity is seen in both consumer use and journalistic practice. The Facebook study by Johnson and Kelling (2017) exemplifies how Facebook has altered professional journalism as a whole. When Facebook users have the ability to critique established news organizations, for instance, this is viewed as a new type of news organization.

### **Technology development and fake news**

According to Lazer, et al. (2017), information disorders like misinformation and fake news coexist with each other, which can be characterized as inaccurate or deceptive info, and disinformation, which is characterized as incorrect information deliberately disseminated to trick people. In any case, the rise in fake news is a result of connectedness and online platform that make it easy to communicate and transmit information where time and space constraints are no longer an issue, while also making it simpler to spread false information that has an impact on our daily lives.

The fabrication of news reports has a long history and has become much more aggressive as a result of the advancement of information and communication technologies that enable quick transmission and interaction (Greg, 2018). Sadly, every technological development, first from telegraph in the 19th century to modern social media algorithms, has opened up new avenues for fabrication and deception (Gelfert, 2018).

The alteration of actual photographs or videos to convey a misleading story has often been referred to as fake news. With the development of digital photography, robust image modification tools, and technical expertise, picture alteration has become a more frequent occurrence. Effects can be basic or sophisticated, and straightforward alterations include boosting colour saturation and deleting non-essential parts (Tandoc Jr., Lim & Ling, 2018).

### **Indian main stream media and social media**

The Indian media is made up of numerous distinct forms of mass media communication, including television, radio, movies, newspapers, magazines, and websites/portals on the Internet. Ever since late 18th century, there has been media in India. In India, print media first appeared around 1780. In 1927, radio transmission started. Large businesses now dominate a substantial portion of the media and profit from copyrighted content sales, subscription fees, and advertising. With 70,000 newspapers and more than 500 satellite channels, including more than 80 news stations operating, India has the largest newspaper circulation worldwide, with more than 100 million copies being sold daily.

Based on its evaluation of its Press Freedom Index, the French Nonprofit Reporters without Borders develops and publishes an annual list of nations. India fell from 133rd place in 2016 to 150th place out of 180 nations in 2022. It said that this was as a result of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Narendra Modi's Hindutva supporters exerting greater control over the media. In its 2021 report, the US-based Group Freedom House claimed that under Modi's rule, journalist harassment has worsened.

It is said that India's English-language media has historically been gone liberal, which has recently caused conflict due to a growing recognition of Hindu politics. BBC News "Looking at Indian news outlets in either English or Hindi reveals that biased reporting is the norm. And the BJP and Hindutva are that side."

Social media has emerged to be a highly popular means of connection among family, relatives, business contacts, and future clients or consumers in India, where more than half of the population is already online. Importantly, digital media has given the voice to the voiceless and functioned as a melting pot for ideas of all kinds among Indians. Social media serves as a forum for people to extract knowledge and express their opinions because everyone in India has the right to freedom of speech and expression under the Indian Constitution. According the Global statistics in India 74.70% of internet users in India will be using Instagram in 2023, making it the most popular social media network there. With 492.70 million internet users who are active, Facebook is the second-most used platform in India, where 71.20% of internet users have profiles on the social network. Facebook is the most favored company in India among businesses, the political establishment, and the general populace, and it will continue to be a powerful influence for several years to come. Many renowned brands have interacted with their fans on Facebook. Twitter (42.90%), LinkedIn (35.7% penetration), and Moj with (29.50% penetration).

### **Fake news and Islamic perspective**

It is more usual to link religion or belief to modern media technologies, particularly when it comes to humanism or practical judgement, towards particular issues. According to Hope and Jones (2014), there are a number of variables

that are known to affect how individuals perceive new technologies, including closeness to and familiarity with the technology as well as attitudes, beliefs, and values.

Islam is thought to encourage respect for all life forms, particularly the humane treatment of non-human species. Islam is the true keeper and guardian of individual rights for every person, according to Hilal and Andi (2013). Humans must therefore defend one another, especially their pride, which can have a negative impact on their quality of life.

Regarding all of the components that may be categorized as fake news, Islam's teaching also encourages "wasatiyyah," or moderation. This idea encourages Muslims to unite while also appreciating people's differences since they are a self-respecting, good, beloved, helpful, honest, and friendly Ummah to humanity, just as their noble forebears were in their eras of cultural security and self-sufficiency (Ibrahim El-Houdaiby, 2018).

The idea clearly conflicts with the characteristics of fake news. False news is created and spread because it is considered arrogant in Islam. Here, it feels like a sincere act hurt the ego and pride of the offender. The idea of wasatiyyah is crucial for Muslims to live by in this situation so that our actions are governed by reasonable and moderate choices.

### **Theatrical concepts related to fake news**

Theoretical approaches are a way to connect the concept of the study with certain theories to understand the study in a better way. Fake news in the present time now are commodities which are disseminated with a purpose that can be political, ideological or personal. The production and manipulation of information and then publishing it to main stream media has a diverse effect on the readers and have the power to change their mind set. Often this manipulated information incites hatred, violence and disharmony among readers which leads to the theory of Yellow Journalism.

**Yellow journalism** is a term for a style of reporting that places a greater emphasis on sensationalism than on factual reporting. Exaggerated or made-up stories, controversial or provocative headlines, and a general focus on shock value over accuracy or impartiality are its defining characteristics.

The late nineteenth-century circulation battle between the New York World and the NYC Journal, two newspapers in New York City, gave rise to the phrase "yellow journalism." Both publications used sensationalist strategies to draw readers, such as publishing articles concerning violence, sex, and scandal. A competing paper, the New York Press, created the phrase "yellow journalism," accusing the Globe and the Journal of printing their publications on inexpensive, yellow paper.

Yellow journalism is often associated with the rise of tabloid newspapers, which focus on celebrity gossip, sensational crime stories, and other lurid topics. However, it can also be seen in more mainstream media outlets that prioritize clicks and views over accurate reporting.

Yellow journalism can have negative consequences, as it can distort public perceptions of important issues and undermine the credibility of the media. In contrast, responsible journalism seeks to provide objective, accurate reporting based on facts and evidence.

### **Agenda Setting Theory**

Agenda setting theory is used in political commercials, campaigns, corporate news, public relations, and other areas. The philosophy's central concept is gatekeeping. The selection of content discussed in the media is directed and controlled by gatekeeping. The public is probably most interested in the outcomes of media gatekeeping. Editors are the primary gatekeepers of the media. a concept called "newsworthiness," the mainstream media decides "what" occurrences to transmit and show via media "gates."

Simply put, the media emphasises a specific event to the degree where it gives the impression as it is the most important item of news. This is done on a daily basis. For several months, the chosen report appears as a header or is frequently covered. As examples, terms such as headline, special information attributes, dialogues, and expert viewpoints are provided. As in the situation with the Talibahgi Jamat Incident, the media triggers information by repeating and elevating it.

Framing deals with how people evaluate specific news. For example, the press presents news regarding a crime, loss, victory, and loss in such a way that people perceive it differently.

Consider the 26/11 terrorist attacks or another Gyanvapi Shivling case; the news stories in both cases were constructed in such a way that they favoured one ideology while criticising the other. People's perceptions will so differ depending upon what media they are exposed to.

### **Review of Relevant Literature**

Newspaper stories on Islam and Muslims have increased during the previous 20 years. Developments on the national and international levels have contributed to this increase. According to others, these changes have caused the name "Islam" to conjure up a variety of unfavorable associations, including terrorists and mullahs advising Muslims to avoid the pleasures of the Western world. (Bloom and Blair,2001).

According to Lambert and Githens-research, Mazer's the increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes shows that Muslims are experiencing more intimidation and violence. According to Akhtar, many individuals learn about Islam and Muslims via the "omnipotent media" rather than from personal experience or scholarly research.

It can be told that the press is directly to blame for any attacks against Muslims, it is clear from this that the press plays a vital role in influencing public opinion.

From the earlier research, certain recurring themes on how Muslims and Islam have been portrayed may be found. This includes depictions of Islam as being "barbaric," "oppressive," "a danger," and "backwards." It is also clear that Muslims are considered as a single homogenous population, Islam is frequently seen as a monolith, and there is little

to no effort made to grasp the variety of the faith. According to an examination of the literature, such suggested that genetic to have been regularly present in Literary works since the 8th century and have continued to be employed repeatedly ever since.

Muslims and Islam have come to be seen as a violent and regressive society and religion in the wake of the 9/11 attack. Families and members of Muslim communities are primarily victims and Muslim women and religious men who are veiled in public are victimized and targeted by non-Muslims, which is against the law. (Rahman, Qamar,2017). In present days Islam and Muslims are represented as a terrorist, illiterate, extremist and backward in international media. Although the framing of Muslims and Islam, particularly after the 7/7 bombing, 9/11 terrorist attack and Paris attack, a large number of study and research set up, that an internationally the inclination of media reporting is highly observed negativity toward Islam and Muslims, by affiliating it with extremism and terrorism. The media sectors do not currently carry out their actual responsibilities and do not accurately portray events and problems. The media turns become a business.

Media owners can make money by publishing stories on Islamophobia and Muslims on a national and international level. This is how news articles are chosen by the media to affect audiences, especially in the wake of Islamophobia. (Rahman, Qamar, 2017).

The Tablighi Jamaat case dated between 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March, when the lockdown was announced, the police had advised the Tablighi's organizers to go early. Maulana Saad, the head priest of the Tablighi, however, chose not to leave, committing one of the pandemic's biggest mistakes. 1500 people were housed in the six-story Markaz building, which also served as a dormitory for the Tablighi Jamaat members who gathered there before travelling to other towns and cities to proclaim the gospel.

Due to this error, the Tablighi Jamaat eventually developed to be among the biggest groups of COVID-19 positive cases. Moreover, the Muslims were allegedly carrying out "Corona Jihad" (or Holy War via Corona) by attempting to sneeze in publicly, licking produce before selling it, and dumping soiled money on the road in order to spread the coronavirus.

The word "jihad," which the Indian media is fixated on, serves as a cue for people to immediately associate Muslims with violence. However, the word also conjures up images of horrifying terrorist acts committed in the name of the "jihad" by Al Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram, Hizbul Mujahideen, Bin Laden, 9/11, the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, and the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament. It was fatal to use this word during the pandemic. After a short period of time, Muslims were being maligned via WhatsApp messages in RWA groups, personal conversations, and online. In order to prevent Muslims from visiting the neighborhood, Muslim vegetable and fruits merchants were forbidden from operating in residential zones.

The ongoing scapegoating of Muslims in India, which itself is supported by the front headlines that are obviously clickbait and communally produced primetime programming, is intended to widen rifts between groups and validate the notion of a "we vs. them" situation. It is starting to afflict Muslims in India, who must either be perfect or be

categorized into the vast category of terrorists, super-spreaders of the coronavirus, radicals raised in madrassas, or variations of any of these categories depending on the circumstance.

According to Aaj Tak, Bareilly Tablighi Jamaat members fought police officers who were searching a village for them. This bogus report was refuted by the SSP of Bareilly.

The Tablighi Jamaat allegedly threw stones at medical personnel in Firozabad, according to Zee News. This bogus report was rejected by the Firozabad Police.

According to ANI News, five persons in Gautam Budh Nagar became infected with the coronavirus after coming into touch with both the Tablighi Jamaat. Amish Devgan, News18's managing editor, also participated in the dissemination of this information. Noida Police disproved this false report.

Even for the Hindustan Times, among the biggest and most well-known newspapers in India, adopted a subdued anti-Islamic tone when it carried headlines like "93 migrant workers held for violating lockdown, attacking cops" and "Amid lockdown, villagers attack cops", none of which referenced Islam.

A tale of a Hindu guy named Suresh who had organized a dinner for 1500 people in Morena, Madhya Pradesh, after coming from Dubai was covered by News18 with an image of a Muslim man. Following this feast, 26,000 individuals were sent home under house arrest. The majority of those who did not read on this item would have assumed the guy was Muslim. Muslims continue to be targeted and the fake news is rampant.

In reality, a lynching episode in Palghar, Maharashtra, demonstrated how false reports can result in lynchings, which are then embellished to give the incident a communal flavor. Two Hindu priests were stopped in the middle of their journey in the town of Gadchinchale (Palghar), where there were widespread rumors that child-lifters in the disguise of Hindu devotees (priests) were living there and were abducting children to reap their organs. The priests were on their way to the city of Nashik to perform the last ritual at a funeral. Despite the police showing up on the scene, the mob in Palghar managed to seize the two priests and the driver of their rented car and beat them all to death. Thereafter, several users of social media gave this news a community spin by speculating that the crowd was Muslim. Arnab Goswami, the managing director, editor-in-chief, and co-founder of Republic TV, claimed on a primetime debate programmed that Sonia Gandhi, the interim president of the Indian National Congress, has stayed quiet on the lynching because the victims were Hindu sadhus, even though it was later determined that none of the 101 people arrested for the lynching were Muslim. This gave the lynching a political spin while maintaining its sectarian overtones.

The press in India leveraged Narendra Modi's USP—that he is famed because of not worrying about the minority but rather the majority—to promote him as a Hindu nationalist. This reputation of his, which up until 2014 was viewed as a problem, gave rise to his reputation as the Hindu Hriday Samrat (Heir to the throne of Hindus' Hearts).

According to Boom's annual report Muslims were the most targeted religious group of false claims last year, followed by Hindus, according to our 2022 annual report, targeted by 14 per cent and 4 per cent of all the claims we debunked

last year, respectively. Most of these claims were found to be shared with the intent of spreading demographic anxiety and furthering polarization among India's biggest religious groups.

Similarly, according to a report from Birmingham University the spread of Covid 19 have sparked the rise of fake news, memes for targeting Muslims. The findings of the report says that Mosques are to blame for COVID-19 spreading. Muslims are major coronavirus spreaders. Officers regard Muslims well because they don't want to be accused of being racist. Muslims disregard social propriety norms.

As per a story published in The Print under the headline India's anti-Muslim fake news factories are following the anti-Semitic playbook – they insisted that pickup any crime and add a Muslim angle and it will create havoc, exactly the same Christians did to the Jews. On March 28 of this year, a 15-year-old boy called Rohit drowned in a river in Bela Dih village, Gopalganj district. The fatal accident was drowning, and there were no mentions of any injury signs in the post-mortem or the FIR. A pro-BJP disinformation factory called OpIndia produced a piece approximately 40 days later that claimed the youngster had been slaughtered inside a mosque as a Muslim ritual sacrifice which altered the situation resulted into violent repercussions.

“The Tablighi Jamaat case was a media event in which television news and virally circulating hashtags cocreated a perception of deliberate biological terrorism. The virus was mobilized in a political and conspiratorial role, which fueled the Islamophobic rhetoric of the right wing.” As per a article from ITEMS, which mentioned some of the hashtags which followed the event in regards to anti Muslims thoughts particularly in Twitter. Hashtags like “#Coronajihad” “#NizamuddinTerrorists,” “#bioterrorism,” “#Jihadivirus,” “#tablighijamaatvirus,” “BanTerroristJamat,” and “#COVID786” (referring to a verse in the Quran), were all used rapidly.

According to BBC 2020 under the headline- Corona virus the human cost of fake news mentions the aftermath of the onset of false information spreading in the country. There have been demands for a financial boycott of Muslim-owned businesses in various sections of the nation. Imran, a vegetable vendor who declined to provide his real name to the BBC, claimed that demands for a boycotting of Muslims increased after a false WhatsApp video claiming to depict a Muslim man spit on bread went viral. Imran, who resides in the state of Uttar Pradesh, stated, "We were nervous about going into areas where we would often go to sell vegetables. Imran and other local vegetable vendors no longer sell their goods outside of a city market. False information was widely disseminated in India regarding the prevention of coronavirus infection by a vegetarian diet and a meat-free lifestyle. These erroneous social media posts and WhatsApp messages affected equally Muslim & non-Muslim groups active in the meat sector.

As per a report from France 24 says Hindu nationalists in India have been blaming the Muslim community for intentionally spreading Covid-19, which by May 12 had at least 2,331 fatalities nationwide. Online, a surge of false information has been making the rounds, charging Muslims with violating lockdown instructions and attempting to pass on the illness. The Hindu conservatives who make it up Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (the BJP or the "Indian People's Party") frequently utilize India's 200 million Muslims as scapegoats.

Hindutva, an ideology that seeks to promote the dominance of Hindus as well as the Hindu lifestyle, is one of the fundamental tenets of the BJP.

From the above examined articles and literatures it is evident enough that powerful main stream media such as newspaper and highly volatile social media are used to propagate Hindu nationalism and spread fake news to spread Islamophobic provocative thoughts within the mind of readers, which sometimes done intentionally by specific political groups.

## Research Methodology

To review the data on fake news the researcher obtained news articles from the Indian fact-checking website Alt News (<http://altnews.in>) from recent years. It was chosen on purpose for mainly three factors: a) widespread acceptance and its credibility; (b) methodical processes for information-checking; and (c) organized data. Alt News is a division of the Pravda Media Foundation, a nonprofit, and is administered by media experts and professional journalists. Moreover, the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), a division of the Poynter Institute, has accredited this website.

For this paper the researcher used qualitative approach to study and understand the framing of news in today's new media including social media, YouTube videos as well as the digital newspapers that are circulated. The method of textual analysis was used for the study. News article from the site were first filtered on the basis of articles that directly threw light on propagating Islamophobia with an objective to explore-

- How fake news are framed against the Muslim community resulting the spread Islamophobia
- How political parties are using new media to spread Islamophobia for propaganda

## Analysis and Discussions

Numerous media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram as well as mainstream print and broadcast medium in their digital format are all connected to each other in this convergence age. A little spark in either of these evokes the rest others and spreads in a tremendous pace, similar to what we refer to the theory of 'Magic Bullet'.

The dissemination of false news into the main stream media is not new, but it can be seen that the increasing number of media literacy is leading to a greater number of false spreads of these kinds of news.

- An article surfaced on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the ALT news website claimed that the burning of temple in Shibpur during rally was falsely claimed and was given a communal angle by the opinion leader which led to communal tension. The violent event of Shibpur area of Howrah district on evening 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 where two rallies on led by Viswa Hindu Parishad and other by a local community was passing by a Muslim concentrated area on Grand Trunk Road.

According to news reports many stores and automobiles parked on the road, some of which were lit a fire, reportedly suffered vandalism. The next day, April 1, there was a second round of violence at the same location with reports of

stone-throwing in front of police officers. Even though the BJP has petitioned the Calcutta High Court to request a CBI investigation into the violence, over 40 individuals have already been detained.

On the same day BJP president Sukanta Majumdar shared a tweet of two video one showing fire and smoke erupting at a distance and women shouting 'Chacha ji mandir me aag laggyi hai , jaldi upar aao', with the caption translated from Bengali which said You must be ready for the kicks if you are milking a cow." Which was earlier told by the CM of West Bengal at a press conference on May 25, 2019, while she was talking about attending an Iftar and responding to allegations of 'minority politics.

As a result of the video on Twitter, it was re tweeted almost 1200 times and viewed by almost 2 lakh viewers until it was deleted the count raised to a viewership of 40,000 times and re tweeted almost by 2300 times.

Behold the situation of Bengal! tweeted the same video from verified user Gopal Goswami (@gopalgiri uk). On Ramnavami, jihadists set a temple on fire while Nero didi sings Rahul bhajans.

Quote-tweeting Sukanta Majumdar's tweet, Mr. Sinha (@MrSinha\_), a Radical Right influencer who routinely disseminates false information, commented, "So the report about the Hindu temple was set on fire in WB was genuine.", which was again re tweeted 3700 times.

The same assertion was tweeted by a number of BJP-affiliated accounts. They included Bhavin Shah, Neetu Garg, and Karthik Rao Pantham.

Upon investigation one of the priests Sudama Pandit, told Stone-throwing took place on the second day (April 1). There wasn't any on the day of Ram Navami. I had shut myself within the temple and also was peering through a doorway. In various places near the shrine, things were set on fire. Items like paper, plastic, crates, and baskets are laying around.

"The fire did not harm the temple in any way. The temple was untouched by the fire. I was inside the entire time, he insisted.

SP Traveen Tripathi of Howrah rejected the allegation that a shrine was set on fire. "Such an incident has not occurred. We will take legal action against anyone seeking to promote such a rumour. They will be treated strictly according to the law; he assured Alt News.

Journalist Tamal Saha shared a second clip that displayed plastic crates being dumped into a fire in the exact same location. Guys are gathered around it wearing saffron. The temple as well as the marketplace buildings are visible from a distance, supporting the priest's assertions. He states that no temples were burned in the caption.

When we asked SP Tripathi who was responsible for lighting objects on fire just on road, he responded, "The CID is looking into the matter."

This is a textbook illustration of a false narrative developed from a deceptive video. The comments and quotation on Sukanta Majumdar's tweet, the state chief of the BJP, demonstrate how it incensed his followers. Others commented

comments like, "This is the start of rioting," outraged by the "news" that a temple had been set on fire. I don't perceive any provocation. "Jihadis are destructive to society. Animals in blood masquerading as humans. They express their rage at Muslims by using phrases like "A stain on civilised society," "That's why nrc is required in India," etc.

In conclusion, it was abundantly obvious from our on-site inquiry at the scene of a Ram Navami violence in Shibpur, Howrah, that the temple featured in the viral video had not been damaged by fire. Without any proof, the video was posted on social media and claimed that Muslims had set fire to a temple on the occasion of Ram Navami. Our in-person conversations with locals and videos taken other activists just on ground indicate that those who attended the demonstration and/or individuals flying saffron flags may have burned a number of objects on fire close to the temple.

- Similarly, a news on March 31, a blast rocked a house in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, leaving several people dead. Sharing the news, many media outlets, Right Wing influencers and journalists tweeted that the explosion took place at the residence of a certain Mohammad Shafiq, resulting in four deaths.

Arun Pudur, a BJP supporter who routinely spreads false news via social media, also tweeted that a blast took place at Mohammad Shafiq's home. Several additional people, including Sudhir Mishra, Shobhna Yadav, a journalist, Jitendra Pratap Singh of Sudarshan News, suspended BJP MP Naveen Jindal, and Sujeet Swami, tweeted about the incident and made same claims.

Dainik Bhaskar reported six individuals were killed, according to the daily, in Bulandshahr house explosion. The results of the study showed that Satish was the owner of the house and the land where it was constructed. Rajkumar was one of the tenants that resided in the house. The six people killed in the explosion included two Muslims and three Hindus (Abhishek, Chandrapal, Vinod Rais and his five-year-old son Ahad,), according to the source. While searching for her body, a woman's head was also found at the scene.

Further mor SSP Shlok Kumar Bulandshar confirmed that Rajkumar owned the business, while Satish was the proprietor of the plot of land where the mansion was constructed. No Mohammad Shafiq lived at the home where the explosion occurred.

The home where the explosion occurred is really owned by a man by the name of Satish, who rented it to Rajkumar, the proprietor of a business called M/S Air Star Traders.

- Similarly in Mumbai, a picture of two people in police detention has gone popular on social media under the name "Barber Jihad." According to reports, these two people admitted to the Bombay police that barbers were using HIV-infected blades to shave Hindu clients while being paid by the neighbourhood mosques.

This image was uploaded on Twitter by Shashikant Kinger, who stated in Hindi, "Breaking News... \*\*\* Mumbai Barber Jihad Police were informed by a Mullah that donations for barber jihad are made in mosques. In which they are instructed to shave a little portion of Hindus with AIDS-infected blades. Boys are being trained for this secret warfare in greater and greater numbers.

The old India TV logo may be seen in the right lower corner of the image. Via a keyword search, we learned that the India TV logo that appeared in the popular photograph hasn't been in use from 2013. This implies that the popular image may be at least a decade old.

Making a note of this information, ALT news used Google Lens to run a search for reverse images and discovered a July 2013 news video from India TV. Irfan Khan, a Bhojpuri actor, was detained by Mumbai police for credit card theft, according to the video's title. It is clear that this film served as the inspiration for the popular image.

A Mumbai-based criminal reporter who spoke with Alt News claimed that they had never heard of "barber jihad" and that they were unaware of any reports of it.

In conclusion, a picture of a Bhojpuri actor who was detained in 2013 for allegedly stealing a credit card was circulated together with a fake communal rumour that two Muslims had admitted to Mumbai police that they'd been involved in "nai jihad" (barber jihad).

- Article on targeting Muslims with a provocative music added to a five-year-old video appeared on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2023.

A swarm of individuals are seen going forward on a road while carrying swords in a social media video which has gone viral. The video has a song playing in the background on a loudspeaker. The slogan "Naar-e-Takbeer" and other themes inciting people to pick up arms and overthrow the government may be heard in this song.

The video was posted to Twitter by Radharamn Das, vice president and spokesperson for Iskcon Kolkata, with the statement, "Judges would not deliver judgment, but Muslims will provide verdict with swords. We promise to Khuda that instead of holding cellphones, our kids will openly carry swords. They desire swords rather than the computers the government wants to give them. Hindus never wake up

The right-hand corner of the video had the text "MAH FACTORY" written in it. With this information, Alt News conducted a YouTube keyword search that brought up a longer video of the trending video that had been posted on March 14, 2020, by that of the "Mah factory" YouTube channel.

The video was then divided into several key-frames, and one of them was reverse-searched on Google by Alt News. It was discovered that it corresponded to a video purportedly showing a Muharram parade in Dehri, Bihar. As we played this footage, we discovered that the "inflammatory" song had been added to the video separately.

An old footage that was probably taken during a Moharram parade, in which people are seen holding swords, was modified to contain dialogue encouraging people to take up arms and overthrow the government as well as the chants "Naar-e-Takbeer." The song was added separately to the video, which had been around for at least five years.

- In an old Andhra Pradesh film, Muslims are seen in Bombay on February 3, 2023, disrupting a rally for Hindu organisations.

On January 29, supporters of Hindu nationalism gathered in Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra, and presented five main requests. Organizations including the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and Bajrang Dal (VHP) participated in it together with BJP members and the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena. In this context, a fictitious video purporting to show Muslims attempting to disrupt the gathering is making the rounds on social media.

Pandit Shrikant Upadhyay, a BJP worker, shared the video and said that some Muslims had attempted to block the Maharashtra Hindu organizations' march. He stated that due to the police's quick response, communal violence was prevented.

Alt News looked into the claim and discovered that the said video was actually filmed in April 2022 in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. In fact, Alt News had fact-checked that footage while it was being disseminated with inaccurate allegations of stone-pelting and beer cans being thrown from a mosque made by BJP politicians and media outlets last year. The occurrence took place on April 24, 2022.

In summary, social media users misappropriated footage of an event at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh in April 2022 and used it to fraudulently link it to the most recent Hindu organizations demonstration in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- Another incident of misreporting by the media that on January 26, 2023, news spread that a Pakistani flag was flown above a residence in Purnea, Bihar's Madhubani Sipahi Tola neighborhood. This was covered by a number of news organizations. A Pakistani flag was flown inside the Madhubani Sipahi Tola neighborhood of Purnea, according to the multimedia news agency ANI. The Station House Officer's statement, in which he claims that the flag had been taken down and that additional action will be taken, was also included in the tweet. Two further images with the aforementioned Pakistani flag showing were included in the tweet.

According to a CNN News18 reporter's bulletin, the police quickly responded to "the Republic Day stunner" and arrived at the scene. Police said that the flag had subsequently been taken down. (Archive)

The present A portion of Navbharat's account on this occurrence was also tweeted. Rehana Parveen, a homeowner of the home, is interviewed in the clip and claims she was unaware the flag was a Pakistani one. Additionally, she claims that January 26 itself saw the raising of the flag.

In addition to The New Indian, this incident was covered by the Times of India, Zee News English, ANI Hindi, OpIndia Hindi, Zee Bihar Jharkhand, India TV, India TV Hindi, Times of India Patna, and Live Hindustan.

The CNN News 18 story was tweeted by several verified accounts. The hanging of the Pakistani flag in Bihar, according to Ramesh Naidu Nagothu, state secretary for the BJP in Andhra Pradesh, is "beyond condemnation." Amit Rakshit, the Tripura BJP secretary, also denounced the apparent flying of the Pakistani flag. Zubin Ashara, the co-head of the BJP Gujarat state media, retweeted the News 18 story and dubbed it a "shameful occurrence." Law and order have completely collapsed since the Mahathughbandhan formed the Bihar government, according to a letter from Andhra BJP general secretary Vishnu Vardhan Reddy.

An image of the flag was posted in a graphic on Twitter by RVCJ Media. The police committed to taking serious action in this case, according to the graphic. There were nearly 7,000 likes on the tweet. A Pakistani flag was flown over a home owned by Mohammad Mubarakuddin, according to the Twitter account @BefittingFacts, which also posted a picture of the flag.

Some media outlets have used a video taken from a perspective below the flag in their reporting. If one look carefully, they may see that the flag's edges closest towards the pole really aren't green. There is a blue area, followed by a section which is black and white. This is a snapshot of the pertinent frame from Times Now Navbharat story. This was also mentioned in a conversation on Twitter by a user.

The national flag of Pakistan does not contain this pattern. The vertical white stripe just on left of the Pakistani national flag features a crescent moon and a star against a backdrop of green. It is very evident that the flag flown at the residence in Purnea wasn't the Pakistani national flag due to the striking variances in pattern. Furthermore, Purnea Police said in a statement posted on Twitter that they had established from their inquiry that flag wasn't a Pakistani flag but instead a religious flag that had been flown a month before.

the All India Muslim Jamaat spokesperson, Dr. Anwar Raza Qadri, who outlined the importance of the designs on the flag in Islam. The blue stripe, according to Qadri, was influenced by the design on the dome of the Baghdad Sharif Mosque, also called Ghous-E-Azam. The dome of the Dargah E Aalahazrat in Bareilly served as the inspiration for the white portion with the black zigzag lines. The flag's patterns and the domes' patterns are contrasted below. Prior to the celebration of Eid Milad-Un-Nabi to commemorate the anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad, the father of Islam, this flag was frequently flown in India. Many cities, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, and New Delhi, clearly showing how the media frames news.

- Similarly a news with a video clip surfaced on Alt news website on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023 displayed false communal claims in a video of Paris protests over pension reforms

The allegation that the protestors are Muslim immigrants who caused chaos in the French capital was made in a video of protestors ransacking a McDonald's shop that went viral on Twitter. The word "Paris" is superimposed over the footage. The video clip is actually a combination of many clips showing masked demonstrators stealing goods from stores and setting furniture and cars on fire while surrounded by smoke and flames and burning trash. The footage also reveals a sizable police and fire department presence.

@NagarJitendra, posted the video on Twitter with the description, 'पेरिस में भी क्या कोई #रामनवमी का जुलूस निकला था??'

The same occurrence is depicted from a different perspective in the video published by Guardian on March 24, 2023. The video description states that on Thursday, March 23, protests entered their ninth day across France as a record number of people flocked to the streets to demonstrate against Emmanuel Macron's pension reform. Additionally, it claims that some masked demonstrators were observed breaking and vandalising storefront windows, including McDonald's. The bill which will raise the pension age was pushed through by the controversial executive powers of the French president. On March 22, Macron justified his choice to adopt the legislation, which sparked additional unrest and violence.

Screenshots from of the two videos can be compared to show that they are from the similar event.

In conclusion, a video purporting to depict Muslim demonstrators in France damaging public buildings and restaurants has gone popular on social media. This occurs immediately after numerous instances of racial unrest were reported in West Bengal, Gujarat, and Bihar on March 30 during Ram Navami. However, after fact-checking the assertion, it was found that the majority of the French protesters were union members who've been opposed to the French government's pension reform. There is no proof that any single religious organization participated in the protest or had a communal goal.

- Another identical story which showed- passports with fake claims of "illegal Muslim settlers" from a 2018 video that went viral which came to the site on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

A video of four young people collecting abandoned passports from a rice field next to a local road has gone viral. A Hindi caption that reads, "Looking at the manner that thousands of unauthorized Muslims are located alongside Bet Dwarka of Gujarat, it could be deduced there are in fact dozens of Kasabs inside the country," has been posted alongside this video on social media.

On March 28, 2023, right conservative activist Sadhvi Prachi, a Vishwa Hindu Parishad member and the head of the Hindutva group Bhagwa Kranti Sena, posted the video containing the identical allegation on her Facebook page. Almost 9.2 million people watched the video, and it has now gone viral.

The video was posted on Twitter by Satya Sanatan Official with the same message, the tweet received over 13,000 views.

The identical allegation was made in a video tweeted by @bageshwarBaba, another Twitter handle. This tweet has received over 10,000 views.

Numerous other right-wing Twitter accounts, including @shribhagavasena, @Eagle View, and @Kamlesh14221399, uploaded this video with the identical captions and insisted that Bet Dwarka in Gujarat was home to illegal Muslim settlers.

By dissecting the video with the InVid and conducting a reverse search on one of the crucial frames, Alt News discovered a number of news articles from March 2018. Reports from The Times of India, The Tribune, the Hindustan Times, and Jagran are among them.

According to The Tribune, 258 passports were discovered on the side of the road between Chakerian and Lakranwali Village in the Kalanwali neighborhood near Sirsa District of Haryana. The passports were of current validity, according to Om Parkash, the SHO of the Kalanwali police station he responded to the scene and recovered the documents, which was quoted in the article.

On YouTube, Alt News discovered a thorough article from a regional internet news outlet called The Sadaknama. The journalist in the video went to the police station in Kalanwali and spoke with the folks whose passports they were. One of them claims to have delivered their passport and some cash to a visa agent. The business was shut down a short while thereafter.

Consequently, it is evident from media reports and police report that the widely shared video of passports being discovered by the side of the road is an old tape from Haryana's Sirsa district. The incident happened in 2018. The assertion that these demonstrate Muslims have illegally settled in Gujarat is incorrect and inaccurate.

- Delhi schoolchildren fight with knives, videos go viral with false religious claims surfaced on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

On social media, a bunch of videos with school-aged kids are being circulated. Another group of boys fighting beside a vehicle parked in the road's center can be seen in the first video. They are all wearing school uniforms. In other videos, a boy who has been hurt is laying on a stretcher while being questioned about the occurrence by the person who is filming it.

According to reports, a gang of Muslims waved knives towards "Hindu school-goers." On March 22, 2023, Bam Bam Thakur, a Twitter user, posted a five-second video along with the following caption: "From Khajuri to Karawal Nagar, people of a particular community attacked Hindu children who were returning after taking their Class 12 examination with knives, injuring more than 20 children gravely. a Ramadan present.

On March 26, a user by the name of Manoj Srivastava posted another video, alleging that on March 20, members of Muslim community attacked 'Hindu children' with knives, resulting in the injuries of over 20 kids.

On March 27, the Hindustan Times reported that five students had been stabbed in the chest and stomach. In the case, six minor defendants were also detained. The attack's five victims were all treated at the hospital and were no longer in danger. Students from Govt Boys Senior Secondary, Karawal Nagar and also another government school got into a fight during the incident over a motorbike stunt. On March 17, one of the attackers was seen by the police executing a motorbike stunt near a school in Karawal Nagar (Friday). There was an argument after several students outside the school questioned him about why he was doing stunts before their school.

The article states that despite all of the accused claiming to be juveniles, authorities were checking their ages. They also mentioned the common religious identity of the 11 guys who were involved—five of whom were victims and six of whom were accused.

Articles on the incident have also been released by NDTV and The Times of India. DCP (North East Delhi) released a statement on this situation, and it was uploaded on the YouTube channel "Jhalko Delhi." The DCP said, "It was stated on media platforms that there had been a dispute between the youngsters of two neighborhoods," following giving all the specifics of the occurrence. As such, nothing exists. These youngsters are all from the same neighborhood. There is still more inquiry being done.

In short, there were fights between kids of 2 government schools in Karawal Nagar, Delhi. A fake communal perspective was used in the sharing of a videotape of this incident. In truth, every accuser and victim are members of the same group.

- Muslim "priests" at the temples of Kerala? With misleading communal claims, a ceremonial dancing video has gone viral surfaced on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

On social media, a video of a guy saying the Adhan (Islam's call to prayer) has gone viral. According to rumors, the Kerala state government in India has hired Muslims and Christians for temple priests, and as a consequence of this choice, Hindu deities are allegedly being served meat and wine at these sites of worship.

The Kerala government has recruited Muslim and Christian preachers at the temples, according to a user who shared this video on Twitter in Hindi. Kerala administration should be sacked since things are currently so bad that beer is being supplied to Hanumanji, meat is being served, while Allah Ho Akbar is now being chanted\*. Otherwise, Hindus would eventually disappear from the state.

Facebook users are also shared this video with the same message.

On January 16, 2023, The Indian Express came out. This article claims that the performance featured in the popular video is known as "Theyyam." It is a "Hindu ritualistic dance practiced in portions of Karnataka and northern Kerala, frequently by members of reserved castes, who are venerated as godlike creatures during the brief rite."

In other locations, the dance genre also features Muslim characters, even though most Theyyam performances use Hindu tribal legends, according to the article. An @AbbakkaHypatia user's tweet is featured in the story. The clip, according to one user, is making the rounds via WhatsApp groups with individuals complaining that "secularism has contaminated Theyyam," despite the fact that the ritual has been going on for "1000 years." A TikTok clip of the same event was uploaded on December 24, 2022, at least three weeks well before piece in The Indian Express.

According to The Hindu's report, two highly acclaimed Mappila Theyyams, Kalanthan Mukri and Aali, are performed final week in October, which marks the start of the Theyyam season, and at the end of March or the beginning of April, respectively.

According to Alt News, the popular video was uploaded to YouTube dated December 22, 2022. As a result, the tape that is currently being shared was either shot around the months of October and December and it may even be older.

In conclusion, it is falsely claimed both Muslims and Christians are being recruited as priests in temples in the state, leading to Islamic prayers in temples as well as offers of wine and meat to Hindu deities. This is done by posting a clip of a Theyyam performance in Kerala.

- 11th March 2023, in a viral TV series scene, there are reports that Australian schoolchildren are being "Islamized."

Social media users claim that 'furious parents' are blaming the school for brainwashing and 'Islamizing' their children in order to appease a migrant population in a video reportedly exhibits children inside an Australian school getting trained how to worship in a mosque.

The video was tweeted with the same assertion by the @MeghUpdates Twitter account.

Shashank Shekhar Jha, a political pundit and Supreme Court attorney, too tweeted the clip and asserted that Australian youngsters were coerced into "doing Namaz" without their parents' consent.

According to Twitter Blue subscriber Minni Razdan, one of the students' parents allegedly questioned, "Would Muslim families want their kids to attend a Church and pray to Christ?" while tweeting the video. Reporter Rakesh Krishnan Simha tweeted the identical claim and the statement that the school was "infested by secularism" along with the video. The video was also tweeted with the same allegation by Twitter user @Klaus Arminius. Over 2300 people liked and retweeted their message.

"The Swap," a Special Broadcasting Service series, was where the tape came from. The episode centers on 12 students from various religious origins and their families who take part in a study to learn more about one another's cultures. In the conclusion of the popular video, with the SBS logo.

On March 3, 2023, SBS Australia's official Facebook page posted the viral video. The caption reads, "We may occasionally come out as harsh or rude when attempting to teach others about our principles. That is something that (the kids) have had to learn to avoid. As some of the pupils participate in prayers for the first time, they gain a greater understanding of cultural values.

In order to make the false claim that a school was forcing non-Muslim students to offer Namaz and indignant family members were criticizing the school of propagandizing and islamizing their children, a clip from the documentary TV series "The Swap" that showed non-Muslim students participating in an Islamic prayer session was shared online.

- Communal claim of an image of the Islamic flag in a Chhattisgarh temple surfaced the site on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

A picture of a green flag with both a crescent moon, star, as well as the number 786 printed on it that is claimed to be from Chhattisgarh's Gunderdehi is being circulated. On February 6, RRS spokesperson Panchjanya tweeted about it.

Islamist flag at temple! Panchjanya tweeted without providing any further context. More than 4500 people retweeted it, and it received over 4 lakh views.

The popular image was provided by verified Twitter user Arpita Shaivya, who commented, "Maa Chandi Devi Temple, Gunderdehi Chattisgarh. The Waqf Board claimed ownership of it. Our government is working to modernize its assets.

The identical claim was made on numerous Facebook accounts in their posts.

Amar Ujala went to the location to get a first-hand account. They released a video broadcast with the title, "On the one hand, the temple from Chhattisgarh is indeed a symbol of Hindu-Muslim harmony at a time when the mood in the country is heated over caste and religion. Both religions' followers bow down together in this temple. When the temple's doors open, frankincense is ignited first, and a "chadar" is then retrieved for the "mazaar" outside. Following that, Maa Chandi is worshipped by both communities. The Islamic flag is also present on the goddess idol, which is something that jumps out.

Hindus and Muslims have a long tradition of worshipping together, according to people from both religions including the temple priest in the video.

Afterwards, Republic Bharat and Aaj Tak also covered the story. Earlier, the Digital Forensics, Research and Analytics Centre fact-checked this assertion (D-FRAC)

In conclusion, false information was spread on social media about a picture of an Islamic flag flying over a Hindu idol inside a Chhattisgarh temple wherein Muslims and Hindus pray side by side. A number of the posts suggested that the Waqf Board had taken control of the temple.

- A video of a guy being beaten by women in Kerala was spread with a false communal allegation surfaced on 3rd February 2023

Recently, a video of many women allegedly assaulting a man went viral with the allegation that the guy was a Muslim as well as the women were Hindus. Many users commented on the video when they posted it, saying that this was how to stop Love Jihad. Hindu girls were urged to "display their Durga Avtar to Muslims," according to user @Anandi sanatani.

The same claim was made by several additional individuals who posted the video. The video got viral in Facebook too.

11 women arrested for assaulting man who severed links with Irinjalakuda cult," reads an Onmanorama story. Several stills from the video are included in the article. According to the report, these women belonging to the Church of the Emperor Emmanuel. The man, known only as Shaji, was suspected of altering and disseminating images of church-affiliated women. He had lately severed his ties to the organization. The report also stated that perhaps the women who attacked him had been charged by Aloor Police with several offences, including attempted murder.

Shaji has severed connections with Zion retreat centre run by the Emperor Emmanuel Church, according to the report.

The women stopped the automobile Shaji and his parents were travelling in, took him outside, and abused him.

A policeman from of the Aloor police station denied the online rumours, proving that the individual wasn't a Muslim.

The officer claimed that the guy as well as the women who attacked him were members of the same church.

As a result, a video showing a man being attacked by numerous women went viral with a misleading sense of community. A number of individuals who shared the video asserted that man being beaten was a Muslim. The two were indeed members of the same church and are both Christians.

## Conclusion and discussions

Upon examine the above articles which are latest from recent years (2023), it is very much evident that new media tools play pivotal role in disseminating framed news against Islam. It can be seen that, using the help of social media the process of spreading of this provoking news has become too fast and has the capability to multiply itself even faster. Social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp acts like a catalyst in spreading this news which people believe and share it further, thus creating a chain of false claims.

It is also found that the after the incoming of Right-wing government, the incidents have been increased to de-moralize Muslim and create a threatening image of them in front of Hindus in the form of short video clips in YouTube, Twitter and Facebook post etc. Terminologies like 'JIHAD', 'KATTAR MUSALMAN' are used in hashtags to incite Hindus. Apart from social media traditional print and broadcast media is also playing an important role in shaping the mind set of people accordingly.

The advancement of technology has opened up multiple communication channels in front of us. These channels have the power to motivate people in positive or negative ways. Thus, it is very important for the users to understand the motive behind such news reports or video clips. These news reports can cause severe harm to the harmony of the country which can be clearly seen. Thus, scrutinizing the facts becomes extremely important. Users should be vigilant enough to re-check these reports and then digest it.

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