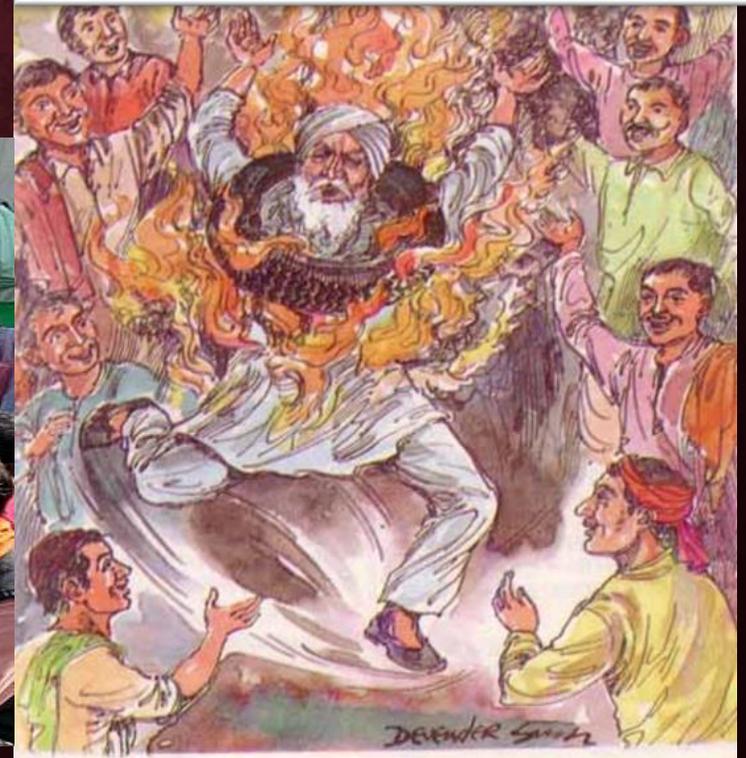




CORE ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN INDIA

Dr Iqtidar Karamat Cheema

This Presentation contains scenes of violence that some viewers may find disturbing



INDIAN RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION

Religious Composition	Population	(%)
Hindus	827,578,868	80.5
Muslims	138,188,240	13.4
Christians	24,080,016	2.3
Sikhs	19,215,730	1.9
Buddhists	7,955,207	0.8
Jains	4,225,053	0.4
Other Religions & Persuasions	6,639,626	0.6
Religion not stated	727,588	0.1
Total	1,028,610,328	100.0

BJP, HINDUTAVA & QUESTION OF RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

ॐ HINDUTVA WHO IS A HINDU?



आसिंधु सिंधु-पर्यन्ता यस्य भारत-भूमिका ।
पितृभूः पुण्यभूश्चैव स वै हिंदुरिति स्मृतः ॥

HINDU means a person who regards this land of
BHARATVARSHA, from the Indus to the
Seas as his Father-Land as well
as his Holy-Land that is
the cradle land of his religion. ”

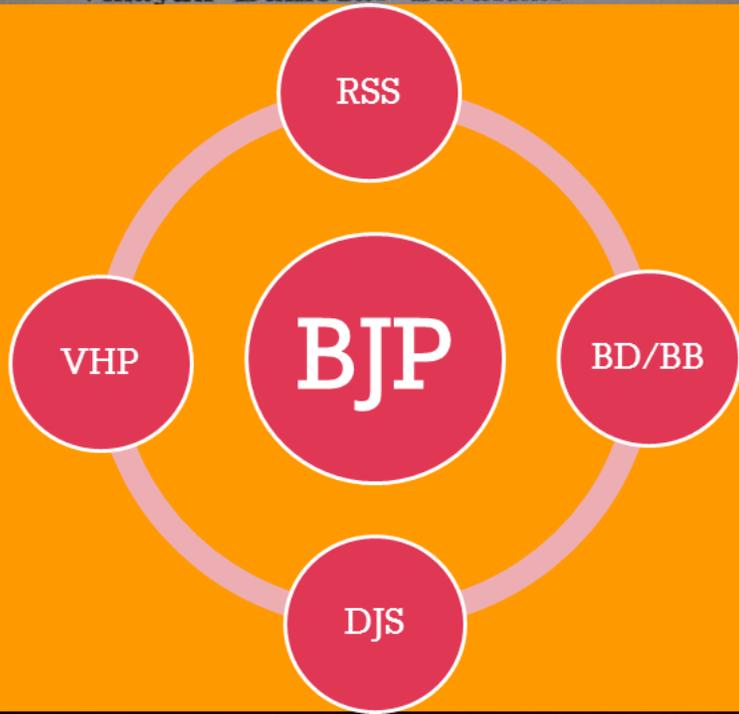
— By —

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar



Sangh Parivar Core Ideology:

- only Hindus have a claim to India as a nation
- Sikh, Buddhists and Jains have no separate religious identity and should submerge into Hinduism
- Christian, Muslims and Jews cannot be a part of Indian nation as their Holy lands are located else where
- Being Indian means being Hindu (Hindu-Hindi-Hindustan)



CORE LEGAL CHALLENGES TO INDIAN RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

Article 25 of Indian Constitution

- Dubious nature
- Question of Sikh, Buddhist, Jain Identity

Freedom of Religion acts

- Applicable to Minorities only
- Conversion to **Hinduism** is considered as '**reconversion**'.
- Highest Rate of Communal Violence in States with 'anti-Conversion Laws'

Special Marriage Act

- Deprivation from Right of Child Guardianship
- Deprivation from Right of marital Support for Women
- Limited rights of inheritance in case of Inter-faith Marriages

Foreign Contribution act

- A Tool to Harass NGOs
- No control on Foreign Contributions to Hidutva
- Cancellation of Licences of 9000 NGOs under Modi Government

Violations of Article 19 of the Indian Constitution

- Restrictions on freedom of speech, expression and association
- No leave to enter for resident foreign missionaries since 1960
- Restriction on new religious institutions

Constitutional Right of Equal Citizenship and the Dalits

- Caste System and 16% Untouchable Indian Citizens
- 11 Years Delay on petition no.180 of 2004 in Indian Supreme Court
- No opportunity to contest elections in over 1000 assemblies' seat and 79 Lok Sabha constituencies

MAJOR INCIDENTS THAT INDICATE STATE FAILURE TO PROTECT MINORITIES

Sikh Genocide 1984



Gujarat Muslims' Massacre 2002



Ghar Wapsi 2014-15



Continuous Persecution of Christians



UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS & DECLARATIONS WHICH ARE NOT **FULLY RECOGNIZED BY INDIA**

- **Genocide Convention 1948**
- **Geneva Convention 1948 Additional Protocols 1977 (NOT SIGNED)**
- **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965**
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966**
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966**
- **Biological Weapons Convention 1972**
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1977**
- **Convention Against the Taking of Hostages 1979**
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child 1990**
- **Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings 1997**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS

1. United States should conduct a complete review of its foreign policy towards India and put religious freedom and human rights at the heart of all trade, aid and diplomatic interactions with India.
2. United States should not support India's permanent membership to United Nations' Security Council till India signs the 1977 Additional Protocols of Geneva Convention 1948 and withdraws its reservations on Genocide Convention 1948, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1977, Convention Against the Taking of Hostages 1979, Convention on the Rights of the Child 1990.
3. United States should publicly condemn the controversial Ghar Wapsi (homecoming, or mass-reconversion) programme and the 'Hindutva' movement that seeks to threaten, intimidate and marginalize religious minorities in India.
4. United States should urge that those who committed Sikh Genocide in 1984 and Muslim Genocide in 2002 should be tried in the International Criminal Tribunal.
5. United States should urge Indian Government to immediately lift its sanctions against Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), working for the welfare of the minorities in India.
6. United States should identify Hindutva groups that raise funds from American citizens and support the hate campaigns in India. Such groups should be banned from operating in the United States if they are found to spread hatred against religious minorities in India.