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Correspondence

Managing Editor, *Al-Itqān*
Research Management Centre, RMC
International Islamic University Malaysia
P.O Box 10, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +603 6196 5558
Website: <http://journals.iium.edu.my/al-itqan/index.php/alitqan/index>
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The Consequences of Proliferation of Islamophobia in India and Muslims' Predicaments: An Overview

Thameem Ushama *

Abstract

Century-long proliferation of Islamophobia in India has reached momentum during India's 2019 Parliamentary elections that led to Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) exhibiting discrimination of Muslims who live in India for centuries, contributing to its development and establishment of socio-religious co-existence and harmony. A qualitative content analysis of the writings, websites, newspaper reports, public speeches, social media analyses and claims, manifest that Hindutva exponents have been propagating the Hindutva ideology to establish *Hindu Rashtra*. The paper studies cultivation of hatred for Muslims by engineering communal violence, mosque demolition, and Muslim genocide by *Hindutva* proponents and those who are at the helm of affairs. The paper also studies the so-called 'Spanish Experiment', branding Muslims, Supreme Court verdict on Babri Mosque, anti-Muslim policies, the Kashmir issue, Citizenship Amendment Act, National Register of Citizens, and forcing Muslims to utter *Jai Sri Ram*, and the Hindu fanatics carrying the flag of Islamophobia to foreign lands, the Shaheen Bagh protest and Delhi violence.

Keywords: Babri Mosque, Islamophobia, Hindutva ideology, genocide, communal violence.

Introduction

Islamophobia has been on the surge in western countries after 9/11. India, the largest secular democracy, is too infected by this phenomenon. History discloses that Islamophobia has been flourishing since the inception of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu Mahasabha, Shiv Sena and other Sangh Parivar gangs. Founders of these organisations, as hard core Islamophobes, spread Islamophobia by streamlining activities and organising *shakhas*, training camps and drills. Religious festivals, such as Vinayak Chaturthi, were instrumental in sowing seeds of hatred thoughts and nurturing activities against Muslims by fabricating untruths. Their speeches displayed superlative degree of malevolence

* Prof. Dr. Department of Uṣūl al-Dīn and Comparative Religion, Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS), International Islamic University Malaysia, Gombak, Selangor. Email: thameem@iium.edu.my

and antagonism for Islam and Muslims, infuriated Hindu extremists, dampened inspiration and galvanised them in evolving and expanding strategies to plot against Muslims.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, Bal Thackeray, Amit Shah and other Hindutva ideologues stigmatised India's Muslims as "terrorists", "anti-India", "anti-Hindus", "enemies of India", "pro-Pakistan", "filth of the gutter", "termites", "foreign agents" and what not? Such denouncements have been gradually on the surge for a century. Encouraged by the words of Savarkar, Golwalkar and Thackeray - the key manufacturers of Islamophobia, Islamophobic industry had grown with several organisations emerging, patronising, developing, inculcating and spreading Islamophobia as branches of RSS known as Sangh Parivar. Throughout one century, many fictitious and concocted allegations against Muslims and tainting them as adversaries of Hindus and seditionists of India are being continuously made.

Savarkar - a leader of Hindu Mahasabha fabricated that Muslims would be malignant, venomous and harmful, for they design conspiratorial strategies against the re-establishment of 'Hindu Rashtra'. He formulated Hindutva ideology and engendered profound hostility for Islam and Muslims and reiterated that Muslims are the paramount enemies of Hindu India.¹ Historians documented that it was Savarkar who first advocated and nurtured an anti-Muslim form of 'Hindu nationalism'.² Due to his anti-Muslim politics he was regarded as the most controversial and contestable India's political theorist of the twentieth century. He was one of the prominent pioneers of Islamophobic industry resulting devastating consequences for Muslims.

Savarkar differentiated between *Hindu*, *Hindustan* and *Hindutva*. He believed that Hindutva's core theme is the word 'Hindu'. Thus, Hindu solidarity is fundamental to his propaganda. He preached that "*Hindus in Hindustan are a **nation** and other people are **communities** and numerically, therefore, mere **minorities**.*"³ He asserted that "*Hindustan is a Fatherland and Holy land to us, not because it is a land unlike any other land in the world, but because it is associated with our*

¹ Christophe Jaffrelot, *Hindu Nationalism: A Reader*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), pp. 14–15, pp. 86–93.

² Rachel Fell McDermott, Leonard A. Gordon, Ainslie T. Embree, Frances W. Pritchett, Dennis Dalton, eds. *Sources of Indian Traditions: Modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh*, (Cambridge University Press, 2014), p. 483.

³ Savarkar, *Hindutva, Who is a Hindu?* (New Delhi: Bharati Sahitya Sadan, 1989), p. 3.

history and has been the home of our forefathers wherein our mothers gave us the first suckle at their breast and our fathers cradled us on their knees from generation to generation.”¹ Thus, he excluded Muslims and Christians from the India’s citizenship for they were not accepting India as their holy land. Muslims believed Mecca and Medina as their holy land, and hence Savarkar decided to drive them out.

Savarkar advocated that a new Indian State should be set up without common religious, social, cultural and historical ties to non-Hindu communities. His neo-*Hindu Raj* is founded on Hindutva, a purist political ideology that particularly excludes Muslims. He propounded that India’s Hindu majority must follow its traditions and thereby naturally evolve according to blood ties that reconcile past and present; thus, shaping the future. They alone must shape India’s present and future and thus transform secular India into *Hindu Raj*. Hindutva elements argue that Hindus *are the nation* because they share a common culture and religion. Thus, they assert that religious minorities (Muslims and Christians) must submit to the cultural and political dominions of the majority Hindu community. This implies accepting the Hindu faith and culture.

Golwalker, the author of *Bunch of Thoughts* and *We or Our Nationhood Defined*, raised questions about Muslims’ integrity, rectitude and loyalty to India and remained sceptical of their patriotism. His writings provoked Hindus to doubt Muslims who were treated as enemies of Hindus as well as fifth columnists. He held the view that Muslims criticized Hindu worship in their temples and that their processions (*yatras*) and *mantras* only irritated Muslims. Hindus worshipped the cows; Muslims slaughtered and ate. Hindus regarded women as incarnations of Mother India - *Bharat Mata*², which Muslims ridiculed. Instead of promoting India as a united and potentially great super-power, Golwalker divided the nation with mundane parochial visions of unilateral hatred and detestation. He declared that “no power on earth could keep Muslims in Hindustan. They shall have to quit this

¹ Dhananjay Keer, *Veer Savarkar*, (Bombay: Popular Prakashan, 2nd edn., Dec. 1966), pp. 265-266. Taken from:

https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/84001/12/12_chapter%206.pdf.

Chapter 6, Hindutva ideology. Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

² *Bhārat Mata* means 'mother' is the national personification of India as a mother goddess. She is usually depicted as a woman clad in a saffron sari holding the Indian national flag and sometimes accompanied by a lion.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bharat_Mata

country.”¹ Likewise, Dharm Jagran Samiti declared that “*Muslims and Christians will have to convert to Hinduism if they want to stay in this country...*” and “*our target is to make India a Hindu Rashtra by 2021. The Muslims and Christians don't have any right to stay here. So, they would either be converted to Hinduism or forced to run away from here.*”² This is the creed of RSS and other Sangh Parivar gangs.

Thackeray, founder of Shiv Sena, declared that Muslims should leave India. He suggested Nazi model of ridding the minorities like Hitler did in Germany where he wiped out millions of Jews. He also said that Muslims are spreading like a cancer and should be operated on like a cancer. He called for Hindu *suicide bomb squads* to eliminate Muslims similar to Zionist operatives in Palestine. In this manner, leaders of Hindutva ideology fostered and patronized terrorism instead of peace, moderation, tolerance, justice, compassion and perseverance. Manic operations and operatives were inspired by Thackeray whose influence still permeates BJP, India's current ruling party.

Thackeray demanded that all Hindus should unite across linguistic barriers so that all might see “*a Hindustan for Hindus ... [that would] bring Islam in this country to its knees.*”³ During April–May 2019 elections in many parts of India, BJP and RSS workers called on Hindu voters not to vote for Muslims using the slogan “Hindu votes only for Hindu candidates.” The pathetic wickedness and emotive provocations of contemporary Hindutva speech and literature has caused thousands of murders and incidents that go unregistered, unrecorded and unreported.

Following the blueprints of the above Hindu fascists cum Islamophobes, millions emerged in India that perpetuated the mission of RSS and many are on the rise under the shade of Sangh Parivar which take up the challenge of propagating the thoughts of the pioneers. Their only motto is to make and shape India a *Hindu Raj* without Muslims and Christians and to achieve this objective they chose the weapon of

¹<https://www.timesheadline.com/india/rss-chief-golwalkar-threatened-kill-gandhi-1947-cid-report-19968.html>. Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

² <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dharm-jagran-samiti-leader-vows-to-create-hindu-rashtra-by-2021/1/407660.html>. Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

³ Vinod Jena, Balasaheb Thackeray, (North Carolina, USA: LP Inc. Publisher, 2015), p. 34. https://books.google.com.my/books?id=_dxnCwAAQBAJ&pg=PA34&dq=a+Hindustan+for+Hindus+%E2%80%A6+that+would+bring+Islam+in+this+country+to+its+knees&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwje0ZrOhprqAhWdzTgGHeczD1IQ6AEwAHoECAEQAg#v=onepage&q=a%20Hindustan%20for%20Hindus%20%E2%80%A6%20that%20would%20bring%20Islam%20in%20this%20country%20to%20its%20knees&f=false. Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

Islamophobia and nothing else. Several other strategies and methods were adopted to achieve their aim. They believed that to implement the ideals of the pioneers the way forward was political power. The ruling BJP of today's in India is the political wing of RSS is not an exaggeration.

This paper analyses the consequences of proliferation of Islamophobia in post-independent India which almost made India's Muslims second-class citizens depriving them of their fundamental human rights. A qualitative content analysis of the writings, newspaper reports, public speeches, social media analyses and other claims of the *Hindutva* exponents, manifest that they disseminated/ are disseminating their ideology to establish *Hindu Rashtra*. Hence, focus is made to document the consequences of Islamophobia which gave rise to anti-Muslim activities. The paper appraises the so-called 'Spanish Experiment', categorising Muslims as extremists, the Supreme Court verdict, anti-Muslim policies, the Kashmir issue, the Citizenship Amendment Act, the National Register of Citizens, and forcing Muslims to utter *Jai Sri Ram*, Hindu fanatics carrying Islamophobia to other places and various designs to get rid of Muslims.

Consequences of Islamophobia in India

Incidents resulting from decades of Islamophobia did not occur instantly but were the results of careful and strategic preplanning and groundwork. All were engineered after proper coordination of efforts and dedicated training offered to Sangh Parivar gangs with a specific objective to humiliate, oppress and persecute Muslims and other minorities so they would either leave India or unconditionally accept Hinduism. Sangh Parivar gangs often provoked Muslims to retaliate and then seized the opportunity to initiate communal riots.

Communal Violence in 1969

We begin with a narration of the consequences of Islamophobia with communal violence. From 1960 through 1969, 2,938 communal riots occurred. In some places severe disturbances were noticed due to Islamophobia. The 1965 war between India and Pakistan was an accelerant. Balwant Roy Meta, then Chief Minister of Gujarat, was killed during a flight that was allegedly shot down by Pakistan forces. Anti-Pakistani sentiments among middle-class Hindus suddenly transformed to unqualified anti-Muslim sentiments and readily exploited

by Jan Sangh and RSS. Both organizations fuel the conflagration by inciting violence against Muslims.

Golwalker, then chief of RSS, gave speeches on 27–28 December 1968 in Mani Nagar, Gujarat. According to statistics, 1,615 Hindus took part in demonstrations. He stoked Hindu fires by saying they were superior to all others and the only true secular-minded citizens of India. Further, despite their racial superiority they were in the grip of a Muslim trap that would destroy their culture. Hence, if Hindus wanted to change this pathetic situation, the solution was to establish Hindu Rashtra immediately. According to him, Hindu Rashtra identified the true Hindu nation. Thus, it signified genuine Hindu patriotism. Hence, all patriots must support it. He then cautioned Hindus to be careful of a Muslim plot to prevent the formation of Hindu Rashtra and constantly provoked Hindus to fear and hate Muslims.¹

Balraj Mathok, a leader of Bhartiya Jan Sangh, a political party that supported Hindutva ideology, travelled to Ahmadabad and delivered a series of speeches on 14 and 15 September 1969. He questioned why Indian Muslims would object to impositions and possible destruction of Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. At the same time, when Durga Temple was attacked during the Pakistan-India war, Muslims remained quiet and did not condemn it. He asked, ‘*Do you think Hindus are insensitive to their religion?*’ His speech only advanced Islamophobia among Gujarat Hindus.

Ostensibly, the RSS established *Hindu Dharma Raksha Samiti* with a view to protect the ‘endangered Hindu religion’. They used it to organize programs that opposed Muslims. Slogans such as ‘*we will protect the Hindu religion*’ and ‘*let others perish*’ were noised abroad. Meanwhile, a mosque under construction in the village of Odov was attacked along with its clerics. Muslims were forced to flee their homes and seek protection in neighbouring communities. Trains transporting Muslims were also attacked by Hindu mobs. The unprecedented crisis required both curfew (September 1969) and army to control the situation. However, Hindu fanatics continued killing Muslims and burning their houses. From 19–24 September 1969, 514 people were killed and 6,123 houses were burnt to the ground. All was engineered by fanatics inspired by the fiery rhetoric of Balraj and others.²

¹ Maruthan, *Gujarat, Hindutvam, and Modi*, (Chennai: Kizhakku Pathippagam, 2014). Online. <https://t.me/tamilbooksworld>.

² Ibid.

A Muslim youth witnessed the atrocities and vowed revenge. He was caught by the Hindu mob and beaten. The mob promised to beat him until he declared their slogan. He refused and preferred to die rather than utter “*Jai Jagannath*” (Hail Lord of the Universe). *Jagannath* is a Hindu deity, regarded as a form of Vishnu, worshipped in regional traditions of Hinduism in India. The Hindu mob then poured petrol on his body and incinerated him. Similar cruelties were repeated daily. Unfortunately, authorities paid no attention. Most officials were affiliated with of RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal, and Hindu Mahasabha. All refused to entertain Muslim requests for protection.

The Gujarat government appointed Justice Jagan Mohan as head of a Commission to investigate the riots. Their report questioned the role of the police, mentioning that six Muslim places of worship near police stations were attacked and that the police reacted by allowing Hindu fanatics a free hand. It therefore appeared the rapine had covert blessing. Police denied the allegation. Not a single Hindu temple near Police stations was damaged. Instead, 37 Mosques, 50 mausoleums of Muslim saints and 6 Muslim cemeteries were bull-dozed. Three temples were attacked.¹ But who engineered riots?

The Commission’s report indicated police were unjust towards Muslims. Hitendra Desai, Congress Party Chief Minister of Gujarat at that time, did not attempt to stop the riots. His government officials seemed to support the rioters. All seemed in deliberate collusion with Jana Sangh and RSS leaders. All displayed anti-Muslim sentiments and even took part; thus giving an impression of solidarity to increase voting constituencies in Gujarat. The Commission also reported that the riots appeared to be vengeance against the Muslim League that reportedly operated against Hindus in 1946. “*The 1969 riots gave way to a widening gap in Hindu–Muslim relations*”, writes Achyud Yakni, author of several books. After the dust settled, Muslims everywhere began to live in groups for their safety.²

Cow Protection Movement and its Outcomes

Hindus consider cows sacred and worship them. Orthodox Hindus regard cow urine as a holy substance and also use dried burnt cow dung for religious rituals. India’s laws ban the slaughter of cows.³ Most states

¹ Ibid.

² Ibid.

³ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, *Annual Report*, 2016, p. 151.

implement the ban. Whosoever engages in cow slaughter is subject to fines, imprisonment, or both. The matter is an ongoing source of tension between Hindu and Muslim communities. Some consider the ban “food fascism.” Beef is a source of income for many who work in beef industries: including slaughter for food, transport and leather goods. Muslims also slaughter cattle on the festival of Eid as a religious ritual.

During the 2014 general election campaign for Prime Minister Modi, Hindu ultranationalists used a slogan: “*Vote for Modi and give life to the cow*”. The BJP’s message was: “*When the cow is saved the country is saved.*”¹ Mayankeshwar Singh, National Convener, Cow Development Cell of BJP told Al Jazeera, “*We will build 'cow hostels' in cities, 'cow pension' will keep farmers from selling old animals to slaughterhouses, a 'cow protection force' will be mobilised to rescue cows.*”² He also said, “*Our dream is to also build a 'cow university' to teach the usefulness of the indigenous cow.*”³ Cow protection was synonymous with anti-Muslim sentiment. Muslims and Dalits were persecuted in various parts of North India for consuming or storing beef.⁴ The trend continues.

Muslim persecution under the pretext of protecting sacred cows caused the murder of Mohammad Akhlaq in September 2015. A Hindu mob dragged him out of his house in the village of Bisara and beat him to death due to rumours his family was eating beef and storing the meat in their house. A local BJP leader was accused of leading the mob and assaulting the family.⁵ Numerous such incidents go unreported as Muslims remain under similar fabricated threats; including people with goat and sheep meat who are purposely accused of having beef. Freedom to eat what is desirable and good is forbidden by Hindu fanatics and endorsed by the ruling elite.

It is also illegal to transport cows from one place to another place. As a top priority, Border Security Forces are instructed to stop cow transports by traders from Muslim communities.⁶ The Army’s

¹ Elizabeth Soumya, “Sacred Cows and Politics of Beef in India,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/04/india-bjp-piggybacks-cow-milk-votes-2014417142154567121.html>. Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Adit Vasta Apurva, “BJP Leader’s Son among 15 Named in Dadri, Lynching Sharge Sheet”, *Indian Express*, December 24, 2015/

⁶ Mussadique Thange, *Written testimony before Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission*, 7 June, 2016, p. 7.

involvement has been alleged in numerous cases of torture and lynching of cattle traders. Radical Hindu groups have their own gangs called *Gau Raksha Dal* (Cow Protection Front) all over the country. Armed with guns, batons and swords they patrol major cities and highways and will attack people transporting cattle or who possess, consume or sell beef. Once caught, a victim is stripped naked, made to repeat abuses against his/her professed faith, then beaten or otherwise tortured. Videos of these assaults are uploaded to YouTube or Facebook.¹ These gangs are sanctioned by various governmental administrations.

The Demolition of the Babri Mosque

Lal Krishna Advani, a BJP leader, organized a “*rathiyatra*” or chariot procession on 26 September 1990. It was supposed to awaken Hindus consciousness in support of his plan to demolish the Babri Mosque and build a temple to Ram on the site. The event caused national chaos, including widespread riots and murders in several cities.² On 30 October 1990, people climbed the domes of Babri Mosque, damaged them, and then hoisted saffron colour flags. Subsequent disturbances resulted in the deaths of 564 people throughout the country.³ In June 1991, Kalyan Singh, Chief Minister of the BJP government, led his ministerial colleagues to Ayodhya and declared that a temple would be constructed over the site of the demolished mosque.⁴ On 6 December 1992, BJP leaders, including Advani, launched a *yatra* (march) to gain public support for the complete demolition of the Babri Mosque.⁵ Approximately 70,000 Hindus gathered at the *Ram Katha Kunj*.⁶

Soon, approximately 1,000 fanatics entered the Mosque. Eighty of them climbed the structure and began destroying the domes. The crowd increased to 75,000. Police did not intervene by order of Kalyan Singh, then chief Minister. They had been instructed not to use any force against *kar sevaks* (voluntary servants of a Hindu religious objective).⁷ The destruction continued the entire day in shifts. Some went home while new *kar sevaks*

¹ Jayshree Bajoria, “India’s Cow Protection Groups Raise Tensions,” *Human Rights Dispatch*.

² Mohammad Jamil Akhtar, *Babri Masjid: A Tale Untold*, (New Delhi: Genuine Publications and Media Pvt, 1997), p. 22.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 136.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 138.

came to take over. The Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector and Commissioner were all present but did not interfere.¹ The Mosque was fully demolished and idols of *Ram* planted on the debris. During the process, *kar sevaks* also set fire to Muslim houses and murdered several Muslims, especially targeting local Muslim leaders. A curfew was imposed in Ayodhya and Faizabad. Kalyan Singh's government was dismissed and Presidential Rule then proclaimed in Uttar Pradesh. A Commission of Inquiry investigated the demolition of a five-hundred-year-old mosque of immense historical value.²

Muslim Genocide: 2002

In 2002, the world learned that a passenger car of the Sabarmati–Ahmedabad Express train had been set on fire in Gujarat. The incident began when the train reached Godhra Railway Station. The train departed but suddenly stopped at Signal Falia. After twenty minutes a second compartment was set alight. Here, 58 passengers including 26 women and 12 children died. Among the dead were *kar sevaks* returning from Ayodhya, the legendary birth place of Lord Rama. *Hindutva* leaders offered four theories as the perpetrators: 1) ISI Pakistan elements and Indian Muslim fundamentalists; 2) jihad-oriented Muslim fundamentalists; 3) the opposition party; 4) Muslims committed the act to provoke *kar sevaks* in that region.

Reliable sources report that nearly 1,200 *Ram sevaks* were on the train and had been harassing Muslim passengers during the entire journey. They specifically used filthy language to provoke reactions. Some say *kar sevak* insults preceded the train's arrival at the Signal Falia platform. Muslim vendors at the station also had arguments with these gangsters because they not only refused to pay their fare but were also forcing Muslims to say '*Jai Shri Ram*'. One Muslim vendor was assaulted when he refused and a Muslim girl was abducted. These events incited Muslims from Signal Falia to attack the train with stones and firebombs. Muslim leaders, scholars and a few Hindus accept that Muslims had been harshly provoked, which led to the incident.

The incident in which Hindus were killed provoked retaliations. During the following three days, from 28 February–2 March 2002, 16 of Gujarat's 24 districts were involved. Organized armed mobs went on rampages: 2,000 people were murdered, 270 mosques and religious and

¹ Ibid., p. 139.

² Ibid., pp. 137-139.

cultural monuments were destroyed, and the Muslim community of Gujarat suffered economic losses of 35 billion Indian Rupees.

Two observations on the Godhra tragedy and Gujarat genocide are in order. First: *kar sevaks* pre-planned these incidents to provoke Muslim violence as a pretext for larger scale retaliation. Second: Muslim genocide fits the strategy of ‘*Muslim Cleansing*’ serves *Hindu Rashtra* objectives as envisioned by VHP, RSS, BJP and other radicals to assure their economic and political dominance. Prior to these incidents, *kar sevaks* had been attacking Muslim passengers with iron rods and *trishuls* (a three-pronged spear). Injured and hospitalized Muslims had no idea why they were attacked.

‘Spanish Experiment’ to Exterminate India’s Muslims

Hindu Nazis cleverly implement the so-called ‘*Spanish Experiment*’ to exterminate India’s Muslims. Why the name? Islam was once widespread in Spain during Muslim rule from 711 to 1492 CE. In 2016, Spain’s Muslim population was 1, 919,141, approximately 4% of the population. After the decline of Muslim tenure in Spain, Ottomans ruled the Balkans from about 1553 AD; Mamelukes ruled Egypt; Abbasids ruled Persia and Mughals ruled India. Between 1609 and 1614, by royal order almost all Spanish Muslims (*moriscos*) were expelled. During these expulsions, cited Muslim thrones never undertook to safeguard or defend them. The expatriation involved several hundred thousand people; a painful experience called *The Spanish Experiment* by some authors.¹ Moriscos were condemned, humiliated, continually attacked, their houses and shops were ransacked and destroyed resulting in total economic devastation. They migrated to Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt where they were accommodated without resistance as refugees. Poorer Muslims remained in Spain as they had no means to vacate. This was once the position of Spanish Muslims.²

We now draw attention to the condition of contemporary Muslims in India, which shows signs of an operant *Spanish Experiment*. Some say rich English-educated Muslims have been Brahminized and now imitate upper caste Hindus in Hindu dominated urban areas.³ Poor Muslims constitute 95% of India’s total Muslim population (172 million as of 2011 census).

¹ <https://www.amazon.com/Hindu-Nazis-Tfollowing-Spanish-experiment...>

² “How to Exterminate Muslims in India?” *Dalit Voice*, Editorial, May 16-31, 1999. See: <http://www.themodernreligion.com/assault/india-ext.html>, Retrieved on 10 August 2019.

³ Ibid.

Most live in ghettos. As sincere practitioners of Islam, they are not only uncared for but left to their own, just like India's untouchables. Not infrequently, it is this helpless segment that is mercilessly butchered and harassed by well-rewarded and respected Hindu Nazis.

Islam was eliminated from Spain by Christians whose machinations were studied by Hindu fascists and Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s.¹ The research was conducted for suitable application in India. The *Spanish Experiment* ran enthusiastic trials and an analysis of Ruling Class policies reveals parallel strategies to those of Ferdinand and Isabelle of Spain.²

Branding Muslims

To marginalize India's Muslims, Urdu is being gradually phased out and Muslims are being coerced to learn Hindi, which is culturally destructive. This policy is a worldview-friendly cousin of Islamophobia. Any attempt to organise Muslims socially, politically or culturally to protect life, lifeways and property is branded 'communalist'. Any Muslim not supporting upper caste Hindus is considered an 'anti-national'. Muslims devoted to Islamic conduct, identity and community services, even cross cultural and faith relations, are called radicals and even extremists. Any Muslim who protects his/her community during communal riots and such is branded a terrorist. The brandings justify persecution. Muslim History is removed from school curricula. Muslims who contributed to India's independence and sacrificed their life for India are ignored; their names forgotten and not considered when naming streets, roads, parks or public places. People of other faiths who paid lip-service are appreciated, eulogised and celebrated. Names of unworthy leaders whose contributions to India were not the least bit significant are used in various towns and cities.³

National Awards

Despite excellent contributions, Muslim academic and intellectual activities go unrecognised and unrewarded. One individual who received recognition was former president, Abdul Kalam. India's highest awards, such as Padma Sri, Padma Busan and honorific titles are reserved for Hindus. Doors of army, police and public administration are closed to Muslims. Muslims are portrayed as traitors. Their crime is being born into the practice of authentic Islam.

¹ Ibid.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Anti-Muslim Policies

The loss of life and property from a continuum of widespread politically induced rioting causes much trepidation among Muslims. Add to this the following:

1. Closure of appointments to government services and public undertakings;
2. The Brahminization of education, mass media and the advertisement industry;
3. The gradual closure of Urdu schools;
4. Interference in Muslim personal law in matters of divorce;
5. Attempts to introduce a uniform civil code of law;
6. The banning of beef consumption and the criminalization of beef sales is accompanied by ‘glorification of cow’ policies;
7. Introduction of brutal mechanical slaughter of cattle to deprive Muslim butchers of work;
8. Classification of Muslim import and export businesses as smuggling;
9. Re-delineation of Muslim electoral constituencies to deprive them of effective voting power;
10. The dissemination of false claims that Muslims destroyed Hindu temples and built mosques on those same sites;
11. Muslim contributions to India’s development are not only ignored but belittled and even negatively viewed while India’s history is rewritten;

These are but a few examples of anti-Muslim policies that were/are implemented and which cause the indoctrinations of Hindu masses into an Islamophobic bias.¹

Forcing Muslims to Utter *Jai Shri Ram*

After the 2019 elections Hindu Fascists began accosting Muslims publicly. They would force them to confess *Jai Shri Ram* (Hail Lord Rama).² Even a Congress Party Muslim MLA in the State of Jharkhand was forced by the BJP minister to say *Jai Shri Ram*. Muslims who refuse are threatened, beaten and even stabbed. Here’s another: A Muslim teacher is attacked in a train in Kolkata, for being Muslim. He’s heckled to say, “*Jai Shri Ram*”, even if Ram is not really Bengal’s most popular deity from the enormous Hindu pantheon. He refuses, is beaten by the mob and forced to get off the train at the next station.³ Pratap Chandra

¹ Ibid.

² <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/jai-shri-ram-attacks-hindu-muslim-bjp-modi-sarangi-a8975591.html>. Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

³ Ibid.

Sarangi says, “*In the last five years of Modi rule, we have had lynching of Muslims and the lower castes across India by Hindu mobs, ostensibly for the “protection” of the holy cow. In his second term, we’ve shifted gears to forcing people, of whatever religion, to declare the glory of the god Rama and Hinduism. And when I say “force”, I mean kill.*”¹

Muslims are given two options; say *Jai Shri Ram* or go to Pakistan. Muslims are terrorised and video tapes are uploaded to YouTube to demoralise the *ummah* in India. They are posted on various social media platforms. Authorities neither condemn nor authorise law enforcement to act, which only encourages the terror. These outrages of human dignity are the order of the day in 2019 India, even as the PM shakes the hand of Donald Trump.

Nonetheless, millions of Hindus live and work in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Malaysia. They are safe. Nowhere have Muslims forced Hindus to utter *Allah Akbar* (God is great) or threatened them with expulsion. This is not Muslim cultural heritage. Muslims are friendly, cordial and extend mutual trust, respect tolerance and even familial hospitality. Muslims do not advocate Hinduphobia or Indiaphobia. Hindu fascists should observe and appreciate Islamic magnanimity and hopefully redeem misperceptions then learn to live in tranquil harmony. Informed Hindu leaders should comprehend the phenomenon and appropriately exorcize all fascist fanaticism.

The Kashmir Issue

Inspired by the vision of Savarkar and Golwalker, Hindu nationalists of Sangh Parivar have been rallying against the exceptions given to Kashmir through Article 370 and Article 35A since 1950s, arguing that Hindu-majority India must not bend its constitution for Muslim-majority Kashmir.² During the April-May 2019 election campaigns, the India’s Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) promised to revoke Kashmir’s “special status,” tapping into many Hindu voters’ hostility toward Muslims.³ The BJP, which returned to power after elections with an increased majority, has called for the revocation of Article 370 of India’s constitution, which guarantees Kashmiri autonomy.⁴ Now, the Party made this long-held ambition become reality.

As described, Hindu fascists have promoted Islamophobia for decades and now follow the harvest of a sombre Hindu–Muslim conflict. A bill passed by both Houses of Parliament in August 2019 revoked special rights

¹ Ibid.

² <https://time.com/5644356/india-kashmir-article-370/> Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

accorded to Kashmir Muslims.¹ These Muslims decided to remain in India after independence (Article 370 of the Indian Constitution) and the Bill marks a remarkable culmination cultivated by Hindutva. Whatever Savarkar, Golwalker and Thackeray envisioned is bearing fruit. Their heirs and successors now rule India and are implementing tyranny. What was predicted by opposition politicians and Muslim leaders is now coming to pass. Fascism died in Europe but is unopposed and on the rise in India with the blessings of State officials. Many other bills may follow and numerous observers foresee Spanish and Palestinian models of Muslim extermination in India. Unless Muslims meticulously, peacefully and rationally prepare, consequences will be disastrous. If Islamophobia remains unaddressed by Muslim political, intellectual and religious leadership, one cannot rule out the possibility of mass genocidal actions.

Supreme Court Judgement on Babri Mosque

India's BJP government is dominated by *Hindutva* elements, groups that were radicalized when affiliated with RSS, VHP, BD, the Hindu Front, and other Sangh Parivar entities. They are not only responsible for disseminating Islamophobia but also committed to establishing *Hindu Rashtra*. The Hindu Rashtra plan is to rid the entire country of Muslims. This calls for lies, such as 'mosques were built by demolishing Hindu temples', to deliberately provoke uninformed Hindus who, for example, destroyed the 16th Century Babri Mosque in a reactionary rage.

After this 1992 December demolition, a case was filed in the Allahabad High Court that yielded unsatisfactory results. An appeal to India's Supreme Court was then made by both parties, Muslims and Hindus. This case was heard for more than two decades. After nearly 27 years, the Supreme Court finally delivered a ruling (09Nov19) that declared Babri Mosque had been built on a site that belonged to Hindus. The decision freed its disputed 2.77 acres for the rebuilding of the Ram Temple that was never there. The Court also ordered the government to give Muslims an alternative site, equal to 5 acres, for the building of a mosque. The judgement shocked the global Muslim community. Justice had been denied.

Hindu fascists led by Sang Parivar elements celebrated their victory by distributing sweets while democrats claimed democracy was being throttled. Secularists declared the ruling indicated that India was gradually becoming a Hindu state, which was unconstitutional. The Five

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revocation_of_the_special_status_of_Jammu_and_Kashmir. Retrieved on 24 June 2020.

Member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court had made a mockery of justice and drew the attention of international legal experts who ridiculed its naked bigotry. Why? Because the unprecedented and shocking ruling was not based on undisputed evidence but on mere beliefs held by the Hindutva camp. Nonetheless, and despite numerous critics, rallies, demonstrations and non-violent protests, not a single untoward incident was recorded among Muslims. They were patient, did not retaliate, and simply filed petitions for review.

Some Hindu lawyers, former judges, clerics and political and community leaders expressed frustration and dissatisfaction because absolutely no evidence had been presented to substantiate the claim made by Hindutva fanatics that Babri Mosque had been built after Muslim leaders demolished the Ram Temple. Furthermore, the Chief Justice in the case also cited in his ruling that the 1949 militant installation of Hindu idols (Lord Rama, Sita and Hanuman) in the Babri Mosque was indeed a criminal act and that the subsequent demolition of Babri Mosque in 1992 was not only illegal but also unconstitutional.¹ Despite these explicit pronouncements, and regardless of the lack of evidence for the ancient claim, the verdict favored Hindu militants and those directly involved.

This ruling is one of many Islamophobic incidents at the hands of Hindutva fascists after the founding of RSS in 1925. It may also give rise to similar claims by *Hindutvawadis*; so, argue many of the wise among Hindus and other groups. It also challenges India's constitution, which declares a secular nation where belief-based approaches to conflict resolutions are anathema to the civil code and thus, unconstitutional. According to legal experts, India's Supreme Court did irreparable damage to its tradition and culture by giving a verdict based on the religious belief of one party without considering the testimony and evidence on behalf of the other.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

India's Parliament passed a new act on 09 December 2019 called the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, which amends the 1955 Citizenship Act. This instrument provides an easy path to citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsees and Christians who migrated to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan on or before 31 December 2014. The Act does not offer the same privilege to Muslim immigrants. This indicates that the BJP government deliberately side-lined

¹<https://www.google.com/search?q=supreme+court+judgement+on+babri+masjid&oq=Suprem+court+judgement+obn+B>

Muslims. The Act is blatantly discriminatory and unconstitutional because it contradicts Article 14 of the Constitution which offers equal status to everyone regardless of religion. The Islamophobic Act was also nurtured by Sangh Parivar entities. Current BJP leaders at the helm were devoted adherents of RSS. They merely implement fundamental Hindutva ideology. Their hatred of Muslims is unambiguously expressed in the writings of their fathers: Savarkar, Golwalker and Thackeray, et al.

Modi's administration included Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains in the CAA because Savarkar specifically endorsed social harmony between Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains at the cost of excluding Muslims and Christians. Savarkar saw the latter duo as "misfits" in an exclusively Hindu dominion, people who could never truly be a part of his superior society.¹ Christians are included in the CAA, not out of love but because their number is insignificant in the cited countries and most prefer migration to Western countries in the event of persecution. Another reason to include Christians is to show the West that Modi's administration is fair and not hostile to the Cross. The truth is he feared criticism and possible economic sanctions.

National Register of Citizens (NRC)

Another Islamophobic instrument is the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Its undisclosed objective is to render millions of India's Muslims stateless although they are citizens by birth whose ancestors have lived in India for centuries. Detention centers are being constructed to house them after they are declared non-citizens. Contemporary leaders, politicians, legal experts, former judges, university professors and historians have voiced concern. They said that the Indian idea of citizenship, as embodied in the Constitution and the law, is in the throes of a profound and radical metamorphosis. They cite two instruments: the 'National Register of Citizens' and the 'Citizenship Amendment Act'. The former establishes a legal path to declare disfavored groups 'stateless' (e.g., Muslims living in India for centuries; Christians and Lower Caste Hindus). The latter grants citizenship to preferred groups. Muslims must prove citizenship by presenting documented evidence that is "defined by authorities". As for others, particularly Upper-Caste Hindus, different criteria and processing will be made simple; so say those who closely observe CAA and NRC developments and proponents.

¹ Clarke, 2017, *Competing Fundamentalisms: Violent Extremism in Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism* Westminster John Knox Press.

The Guardian Daily reported that “*newspapers have been screaming headlines about India’s countrywide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which was recently passed by parliament, and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC). Both seek to make India’s approximately 200 million Muslim people – 14% of India’s population – second-class citizens.*”¹ According to New Strait Times of Malaysia, the UK’s Economist magazine quoted Amit Shah, the Indian Home Minister from BJP (the ruling party in India), that “*Muslim migrants*” would “*be thrown out*” of India. It further recorded from Reuters which has also reported that Amit Shah referred to the Muslim migrants as “*termites*” and has promised to “*throw them into the Bay of Bengal.*”²

To understand the issue at hand, both the CAA and NRC must be examined and analyzed in the context of recent anti-Muslim policy making such as the imposition of “improved” status for Muslim women by criminalizing triple *talaq*, or suppressions in Jammu and Kashmir. Both instruments also need to be read in light of accelerating violence against minorities over the past few years. Any adequate understanding depends on appreciating the minority eco-system in which they arise, and which emanate from an increasingly bigoted state and society.

India is experiencing unprecedented crisis. This is no exaggeration. People of all religions, except for those who follow Sangh Parivar, are against the new act. Muslims are very worried and insecure about implementation because the recent Hindutva record specifically and negatively targets them. Numerous campaigns by Sangh Parivar openly declare they intend to rid India of Muslims. In February 2020 election speeches, they said they would demolish every mosque in Delhi if BJP won state elections. Many such statements are publicly made. RSS devotees charge their followers to loot rich Muslims and murder poor Muslims, and if Muslims are injured in any protest, rally or demonstration, medical treatment is to be withheld. When Muslims report these matters to Police, their response is “*It is better you go to Pakistan*”. Numerous vicious and vulgar sentiments are expressed. The author has personally observed Hindu fascists uttering these things on numerous occasions.

¹<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/28/indians-protesting-secularism-modi-muslims>

² <https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/letters/2020/02/562622/indian-muslims-risk-being-rendered-stateless>

The Shaheen Bagh Protest

What is the Shaheen Bagh protest? What was its purpose? Was it illegal or unconstitutional? Indeed, the Shaheen Bagh protest was peaceful and non-violent led by women who wished communal harmony and tranquillity in India, and in particular, Delhi. This took place in Delhi in response to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the police brutalities against students of Jamia Millia Islamia (National Muslim University) who were opposing the amendment, due to its discriminative characteristics.¹ Protesters' objective was not only to agitate against the issues of the CAA, National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR), but also the police brutality, unemployment, poverty and for women's safety.² Mainly consisting of Muslim women, the protesters at Shaheen Bagh, since 14 December 2019,³ have blocked a road in New Delhi using non-violent resistance for 101 days as of 24 March 2020.⁴ The protest was peaceful and no untoward incident took place. The principal demand of the protesters was the withdrawal of the CAA, NRC and NPR by the Indian government, which according to them were not only biased but also targeting Muslims' expulsion from India. Muslims believe that these CAA, NRC and NPR are under enforcement covertly as a result of the diffusion of Islamophobia over the past few decades by the Sangh Parivar.

The Shaheen Bagh protest was launched on the afternoon of 14 December 2019, when 10 to 15 local women began to blockade Kalindi Kunj Road, a six-lane highway bordering the Muslim-dominated neighbourhood of Shaheen Bagh in Southeast Delhi. More locals joined and it became a continuous sit-in protest. Many of the participants were wearing Islamic dress or veil (*hijab* or *burqa*) and they were homemakers.⁵ Elderly women have also joined the protest,¹ and children

¹ "Shaheen Bagh: The women occupying Delhi street against citizenship law - 'I don't want to die proving I am Indian'". *BBC*. 4 January 2020. Archived from the original on 8 January 2020. Retrieved 13 January 2020.

² "Not bothered who wins Delhi elections, say Shaheen Bagh protesters". *The Economic Times*. 4 February 2020. Retrieved 5 February 2020.

³ PTI (26 December 2019). "Unfazed by cold, 200 women stage sit-in at Shaheen Bagh, police seek to end protest". *India Today*. Archived from the original on 26 December 2019. Retrieved 13 January 2020.

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahen_Bagh_protests

⁵ Kuchay, Bilal (15 January 2020). "Shaheen Bagh protesters pledge to fight, seek rollback of CAA law". *Al Jazeera*. Archived from the original on 15 January 2020. Retrieved 15 January 2020.

and new-born babies have been present with their parents.² The protesters were supported and coordinated by more than a hundred volunteers, including students and professionals. These volunteers organized themselves around different tasks: setting up makeshift stages, shelters and bedding; providing food, water, medicine, and access to toilet facilities; installing CCTV cameras and bringing in outside speakers.³ Within 10 days, the peaceful protest had grown to cover nearly one kilometre of the highway, supported by donations.⁴

Delhi Violence

According to a resident of Babu Nagar in Mustafabad on the afternoon of 24 February, 2020, a mob approached his neighbourhood with chants of “Jai Shri Ram.” The mob started attacking the locality around 2.30 pm and continued throughout the night and the police were not in the scene. The violence erupted after an incendiary speech by Kapil Mishra, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, the day before. At least 43 people have died as a result of violence. On the evening of 23 February, Mishra gave the Delhi police a three-day ultimatum to remove people protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act from a protest site at the Chand Bagh road. He threatened that he along with his supporters would take matters in their own hands if the police failed to do so.⁵

Mishra was held responsible for the riot. He alone set Delhi on fire. It is said that there are some good people in the BJP. But pointing again at Mishra that whatever had happened in Delhi on 24 and 25 February 2020, it was Kapil Mishra’s fault and he should be held accountable for his actions. An eye witness narrated that those who perpetrated the Delhi violence wanted to divide Hindus and Muslims and the police did not help those who were being attacked and instead stood with the Hindu mob that was attacking Muslims. Referring to the mob, a victim said,

¹ Petersen, Hannah Ellis; Azizur Rahman, Shaikh (21 January 2020). "Modi is afraid': women take lead in India's citizenship protests". *The Guardian*. Retrieved 23 January 2020.

² "Muslim Women Occupy Streets in India Against Citizenship Law". *The New York Times*. 24 January 2020. Retrieved 4 February 2020.

³ "The volunteers of Shaheen Bagh". *The Telegraph (Calcutta)*. 25 December 2019. Retrieved 8 February 2020

⁴ "Shaheen Bagh sit-in: How Muslim women have taken the lead at Delhi CAA protest". *India Today*. Living Media India. Reuters. 25 December 2019. Retrieved 8 February 2020.

⁵ <https://caravanmagazine.in/conflict/mustafabad-bullet-injuries-delhi-violence>. Retrieved on 28, June 2020.

“They came in huge numbers. Above that, when the police also stood with them what could we do?”¹

According to Delhi people, the brotherhood had always existed between Hindu and Muslim residents in Delhi. It is different since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014.² In six years, the country has changed a lot. The people added, that six years ago, Muslims and Hindus would sit down together and share a meal. Hindus would celebrate Eid in Muslim homes and Muslims spend Diwali at theirs.³ On Eid, Hindus would come to Muslim homes to eat *sevvaian*. On Raksha Bandhan, Hindu sisters would tie Muslims *rakhi*.⁴ During wedding celebrations, they would help each other, like they were family members. If someone died in Muslim home, Hindus would help them with the rites. If someone died in Hindu homes, Muslims would help them carry out the final rites. This kind of fraternity existed for a long time. However, referring to the present context, it is said that it is all over now. In six years, the country has been transformed. Today, Hindu sisters are afraid that Muslims would do something wrong to hurt them. Instead of mutual trust and confidence, mutual enmity and doubt is seen amidst people.

The Delhi people say they want fraternity to be returned. They say they miss that good tradition. They want the government to return those golden days. They confess they used to stay, eat and sleep together. They have played cricket and many other games together. They never felt like they were going to someone else's home.⁵ They used to feel like the neighbouring home is their uncle's home. They felt like the women are their sisters. But now they are scared, so much poison has been spread in these past six years. Since the evening of 23 February 2020, several neighbourhoods in northeast Delhi have witnessed large-scale communal violence. Eyewitnesses convey that Hindu mobs targeted Muslim localities, set cars and shops on fire.⁶

The Contemporary Scenario

Muslims in contemporary India firmly believe that CAA, NRC, NPR initiatives are direct consequences of what has now become institutionalized Islamophobia. They anticipate horrific consequences

¹ Ibid.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

even as other religious groups face lesser threats. Real loss is made obvious by terms and conditions laid down by authorities. If these laws are implemented, tens of millions of Indian Muslims will be reclassified as non-citizens and may have to live in their home-country as refugees or second-class citizens without voting rights. The Modi administration requires documented evidence to prove citizenship. If not produced, Muslims will be sent to detention centers, or forced to leave the country, or forced to convert to Hinduism. Signs already indicate such ends, even though law enforcement is at an early stage. Although Muslims peacefully oppose these laws, authorities are adamant and will not withdraw from implementation despite objections by numerous international organizations.

Hindu Fascists Carry the Flag of Islamophobia

Millions of Indians work outside of India in Western and Middle East countries. They are a major source of revenue and send millions of US dollars home to India. In addition, huge investments come from the Arab world. So, note that India is not entirely independent in terms of economic resources. Sangh Parivar groups export their brand of Islamophobia to these countries, especially to the Gulf region where Hindus work in numerous sectors, including software engineering, IT experts, medical doctors and laborers. Some are silent and guard their tongues, others are vocal, and still others are covert in attitude and activity. Some observers argue these elements stay in touch with mainland fascists and actually receive directives to organize programs and study groups. The movement seems to relentlessly expand.

India's Social Media reports that a person working in Qatar named Harish engaged in spreading sensitive issues that were Islamophobic. He wrote that the *Ka'bah* in Mecca must be demolished to make way for a Ram Temple, suggesting it will happen under the leadership of Modi.¹ The Qatar government arrested him. A medical doctor who spread Islamophobic ideas among Hindus in Qatar was dismissed and deported.² A Sangh Parivar group organized a secret discourse in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, in support of CAA, NRC and NPR.³ They mobilized and coordinated

¹ This information has been taken from a YouTube channel in Tamil, delivered by Thuppariyum Shambu. The title of message is "Qatar-Sangh Parivar Entities Detained in Prison. (Refer to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnrQJw60ZOA>)

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

activities in favor of draconian laws that would make India's Muslims stateless refugees. The government of Saudi Arabia arrested them.¹

The writer has obtained information by informal interviews with Muslims and Hindus from India working in Gulf countries. Muslim professionals state that Hindu fascists working in these regions are Islamophobic and secretly collaborate with counterparts in India to implement a blueprint of discrimination. They say such agents collect money to support Hindu fascist organizations; that they sow seeds of hatred among poorly informed Hindus who are unaware of Sangh Parivar's objectives, cunning plots and conspiratorial schemes. They are indoctrinated and radicalized by the anti-Islamic narrative. The systematic brain washing makes the common Hindu hostile towards all Muslim.

Conclusion

The paper has disclosed the consequences of proliferation of Islamophobia in India that led to innumerable predicaments for Muslims. It focussed on how *Hindutva* exponents engineered communal violence in 1969, mosque demolition in 1992, and Muslim genocide in Gujarat in 2002. The paper has examined the so-called 'Spanish Experiment', branding Muslims as communalists, extremists and terrorists, and Supreme Court verdict on Babri Mosque, anti-Muslim policies, the Kashmir issue that put people of Kashmir under house arrest, citizenship amendment act (CAA) that discriminates Muslims, national register of citizens (NRC) that calls for proving the nationality, forcing Muslims to utter *Jai Sri Ram*, Hindu fanatics carrying the flag of Islamophobia, the Shaheen Bagh protest and Delhi violence. Since the consequences are alarming, the author suggests some measures to help improve Hindu-Muslim relations based on common grounds.

Although Muslims face numerous unprecedented and painful challenges, they are still peaceful and tolerant. Since they believe in non-violence, they practise *ahimsa* in the Gandhian way. Like India obtained independence from British colonialists through peaceful negotiations, Muslims believe, by following peaceful means, they will get respect, honour and dignity from those Fascists and Nazis who are vehement and violent and antagonistic to Muslims. Muslims address all issues intellectually and rationally enabling Hindu fanatics to realise their misunderstandings about Muslims and misperceptions about Islam.

¹ Ibid.

Hindu Fascists and Nazis reflected superlative degree of hostility, animosity, and enmity which were tangible in a number of riots they engineered over the last few decades and genocide they administered in Gujarat in 2002 that killed more than 2000 Muslims. They sponsored violence, engineered riots, killed Muslims, supported the Sangh Parivar in their scheming and conspiracy against Muslims. They destroyed the historical Babri Mosque in 1992 and Muslims tolerated although they are not happy. Muslims want peace and harmony.

On review of contemporary contextual circumstances, one sees unprecedented challenges presented by artificial political fabrications. Aside from religious devotions, Muslims must realise it is obligatory to convince Hindu leaders that Islam provides superior solutions to postmodern problems in a globalised world because Islam prioritizes justice in an egalitarian mould that deconstructs vice and cultivates virtue. In addition, Hindus should be made to realise that Muslims do not condemn Hinduism, Hindu Gods, Vedas, Tradition and mythology.

In addition, Muslim socio-political leaders and religious scholars in India should engage in intellectual inter-faith dialogues with Hindu communities for the sake of peaceful coexistence. Productive areas can include seminars and conferences to eliminate scepticism by showing common concern for India's citizenry regardless of religious affiliations. Above all, Muslims should remain magnanimous, hospitable and generous while extending their traditions and culture. They should prepare to cooperate with and assist all non-Muslims with whatever they possess to prove their worth, love, patriotism, loyalty and their inevitable participation in shaping India's future as a nation of peace, probity, prosperity, plurality and true secular republican democracy with all commendable universal values leading to India's aspiration to become a super power.

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