

# Crossing the Line: 18th Lok Sabha Elections and Free Speech in India

A Free Speech Collective Report  
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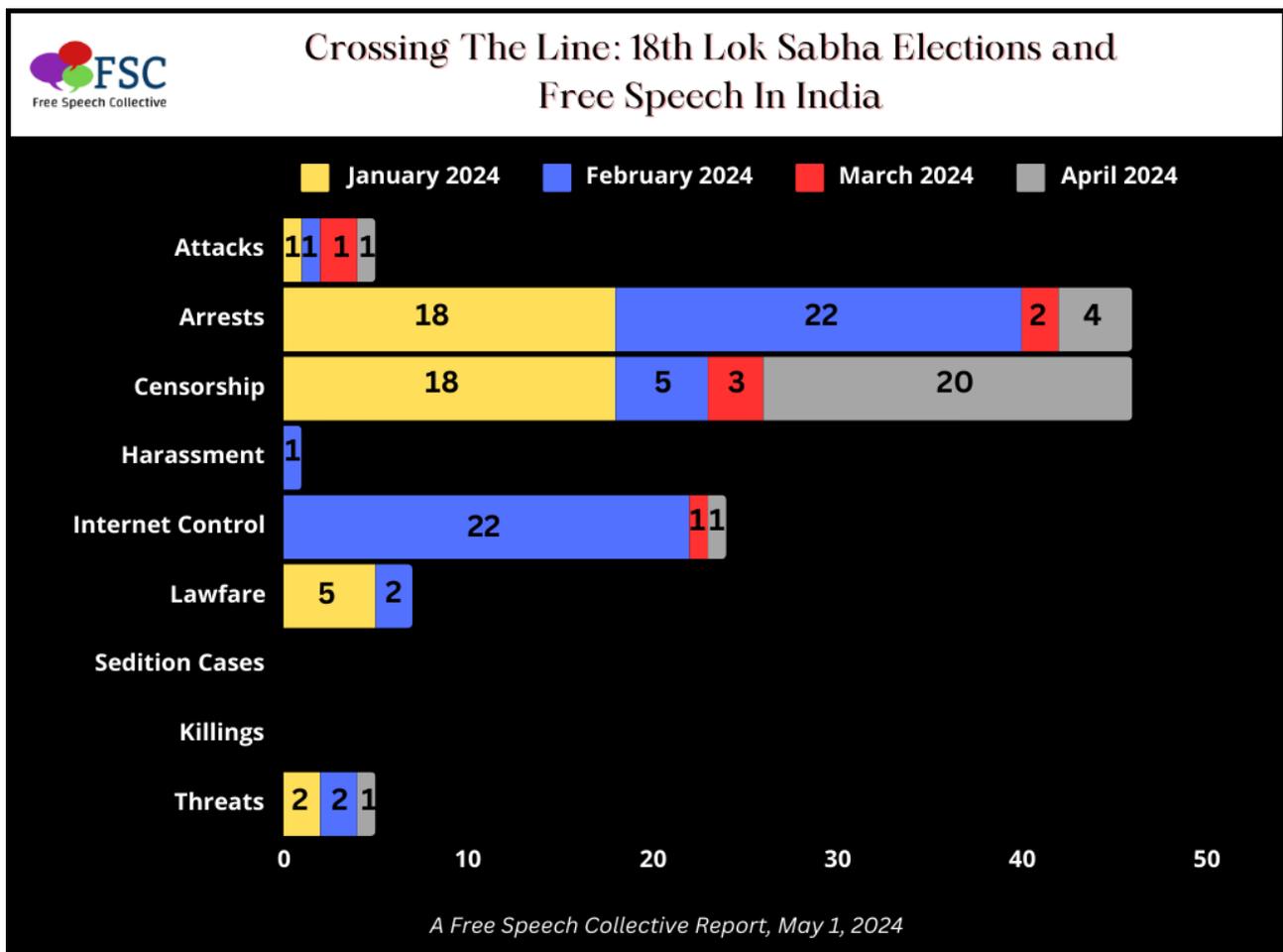
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# Crossing The Line: 18th Lok Sabha Elections and Free Speech In India

*A Free Speech Collective Report, May 1, 2024*

From January 2024 onward, in the run up to the most contentious and divisive general election that India has witnessed, there have been at least 134 instances of free speech violations in the country. With false narratives, deliberate disinformation and hate speech dominating the electoral agenda, the space for verified information, the voicing of dissent or even raising serious debate has all but disappeared.

Free Speech Collective’s review of free speech in India in the first four months of 2024 reveals that the crackdown has been across the board. Journalists, academics, YouTubers, students and other citizens have faced arrests, attacks, threats, harassment and censorship, marked by arbitrary enforcement of rules and laws. Alongside, authorities have been prickly about what is perceived to be critical international coverage, as Avani Dias found out before she was forced to leave India abruptly, an invisible boundary had been drawn.



On April 22, 2024, three days after the first phase of the election began, Dias, the South Asia bureau chief of Australian Broadcasting Corporation was forced to pack her bags and [leave](#) because she was told her reporting had “crossed a line”. The ouster came barely two months after French journalist Vanessa Dognac was [forced](#) to leave after her journalism permit was revoked in September with no reason provided, followed by the revocation of her Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card that allowed her to live and work in India for more than two decades. On February 27, 2024, UK based academic Nitasha Kaul was deported from Bengaluru airport, despite an invitation from the Karnataka government to attend a conference on the Indian Constitution.

Free speech in India has sunk into a perilous abyss and steadily falling press freedom indices underscore the dangers of crossing a line that is becoming increasingly contentious. While this report did not track hate crimes, it must be noted that hate speech, especially from ‘star’ campaigners like Prime Minister Narendra Modi saw little or no action from the significantly weakened Election Commission of India, despite widespread public condemnation and the filing of official complaints.

The recorded data on free speech issues clearly shows that while openly partisan sections of dominant media echo a dangerously divisive agenda with impunity, independent media faces punitive action and struggles to be heard.

Of the five journalists arrested since the beginning of this year, three were granted bail Dhanabir Maibam of Manipur, Santu Pan in West Bengal and Ashutosh Negi in Uttarakhand, while two continue to be in custody. Kashmir journalist Aasif Sultan, in custody since 2018, was re-arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) four days after being granted bail in earlier cases, while Punjab journalist Rajinder Singh Taggar was arrested on charges of alleged extortion.

*(Editor’s Note: While the period under review is January 1 to April 30, 2024, the climate for free speech has deteriorated over several years. The list of arrested journalists for instance, does not include Wangkhemcha Shamjai, editor of a Manipur daily, who was granted bail on January 1, 2024 after spending three days in custody).*

*Apart from Aasif Sultan, six journalists continue to be in custody in India . In order of the year and month of arrest, they are Gautam Navlakha (April 2020), Sajad Gul (January 2022), Rupesh Kumar Singh (July 2022), Irfan Mehraj (March 2023), Majid Hyderi (September 2023), and Prabir Purkayastha (October 2023).*

At least 34 journalists were among the 46 citizens attacked across the country, including senior Marathi editor Nikhil Wagle, who was chased on February 9, 2024 by a murderous mob when he was on his way to a public meeting in Pune, accompanied by advocate Asim Sarode and activist Vishwambhar Choudhary. A day earlier, in a separate incident in Haldwani in Uttarakhand, ten journalists were attacked by a violent mob while one of them, photojournalist Sanjay Kanera, sustained grievous injuries and escaped with his life. According to [reports](#), the mob burnt down the bikes of 14 journalists.

Among the states, Uttarakhand, with ten instances, topped the list of 46 attacks on account of free speech violations in the last four months, followed by Maharashtra, with nine incidents. Haryana had the highest number of internet shutdowns due to the farmers' protest, followed by Punjab and Manipur, still ridden with violence. Manipur had the longest internet shutdown, from May to December 2023, with shutdowns continuing to be intermittently imposed.

In January, government orders, aided by legal provisions of the Information Technology Act, resulted in the blocking of websites like Hindutva Watch and India Hate Lab that track hate speech.

While this report registered 46 instances of censorship spanning social media, news media, academia and the field of entertainment across India, the figure is deceptive as a single event could result in the blocking of multiple social media accounts. For instance, the discussion online around the time of the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya in January, resulted in the blocking of more than a hundred social media accounts.

The trend continued the next month with the protest of farmers in Haryana. At least [177 social media accounts](#) and web links were blocked, on the orders of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on February 14 and 19 at the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs under section 69A of the IT Act. This period also recorded the highest number of internet shutdowns.

While lawfare continued to be deployed to target journalists, opposition politicians and YouTubers, censorship of entertainment followed the pattern of earlier years, with cuts of controversial scenes. Given the electoral climate, films with overtly political content like *Monkey Man* are yet to get a clearance from the Central Board for Film Certification for public screening in India.

In academic spaces, censorship (twenty-four instances in academia in just the first four months of the year) has become the norm. Vigilante groups - both online and offline, stake out their targets and track their social media avatars. In this, they are aided by right wing media platforms who utilise privileged vantage points to whip up sentiments against citizens. A case in point is the recent targeting of a school Principal in Mumbai for her tweets that 'liked' support for Palestine!

Earlier, there were attacks on gatherings of students and citizens who organised film screenings of the documentary 'Ram ke Naam' on the occasion of the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya in January.

The screening of the documentary was cited as one of the reasons for the two-year suspension and debaring of Ph.D scholar Ramadas KS, from all campuses of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on April 18. The general secretary of the [Progressive Students Forum](#) (PSF), Ramadas was punished for ostensibly "anti national" activities, such as participating in a protest march against the Central government's education policies in January 2024.

Furthermore, the prestigious social science institute, which saw its autonomy being steadily whittled down with more government control over funding, issued a circular that a range of activities including "protest, screening, online viewing, seminars, workshops, meetings affiliated to politicians or in solidarity with any public figure, etc., will be strictly prohibited within campus till the conclusion of election."

*Absurdly, the circular cited the Model Code of Conduct of the Election Commission of India (ECI) which is applicable to political parties and candidates for the general elections, not students.*

The TISS censorship story was one of the four instances of censorship at TISS and one of the 46 instances of censorship recorded in the period under review by Free Speech Collective. With the hotting up of election coverage, the first casualties were Marathi news channel ['Lokshahi Marathi'](#), Caravan newsmagazine and the popular Hindi YouTube video channel Bolta Hindustan. On February 13, 2024, Caravan magazine received an order issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) ordering a takedown of their article ['Screams from the Army Post: The Indian Army's torture and murder of civilians in a restive Jammu'](#) within 24 hours. The magazine has challenged the order.

On April 4, 2024, the Hindi new channel Bolta Hindustan founder editor Haseen Rehmani, learnt of a notice blocking the channel issued by the MIB via an email from YouTube. The notice was 'confidential' and there was no reason ascribed for the blocking.

At around the same time, National Dastak, another popular Hindi YouTube news channel that was devoted to covering issues of marginalised sections of society, also got a notice for blocking its channel. Any least two other channels were targeted financially, with the social media platform downgrading their status as [demonetised](#), thereby robbing them of a chance to earn any advertising revenue.

Earlier, the MIB had notified the Press Information Bureau (PIB) for the controversial fact check unit which had been challenged in the Bombay High Court and went to the Supreme

Court after a split verdict. However, the apex court [stayed](#) the notification stating that serious constitutional questions were raised by petitioners who had challenged the notification.

Again, it was left to the Supreme Court to provide some relief for Javed Ahmed Hajam, a Kashmiri professor working in Sanjay Ghodawat College in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra, who was charged under Sec 153-A for his critical post on the abrogation of Art 370 in a WhatsApp group. In March, a bench led by Justice Abhay Oka said that his post was an expression of his individual view and at best, a protest, which is a part of his freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a).

Nonetheless, the government continued displaying its intent to put regulatory mechanisms with a long-term impact on freedom of expression in place. On April 4, 2024, the MIB constituted a ten-member committee of bureaucrats to “delineate the sphere of online information dissemination which needs to be brought under regulation, on the lines applicable for print and electronic media.”

A dangerous portent, with print and electronic media teetering between partisan advocacy and self-censorship, the last remaining space for informing the electorate may soon be completely eroded.

*The Free Speech Collective (FSC) aims to protect the right to freedom of expression and vigorously promote free speech and the right to dissent. Visit the [FSC website](#) to learn more.*

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Cover design and data analysis by Sarita Ramamoorthy.*

*(The report is based on available data. Please write to [freespeechcollective@gmail.com](mailto:freespeechcollective@gmail.com) if there are any additions or corrections.)*

To reprint the report in whole, please contact FSC on [freespeechcollectiveindia@gmail.com](mailto:freespeechcollectiveindia@gmail.com). Excerpts from this report may be used for purposes such as criticism, commentary, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. The credit to all images is to ‘Free Speech Collective’ with a link to the website: <https://freespeechcollective.in/>.

## Details of free speech violations tracked by FSC from January 2024 to April 2024

Number	Category	Date	Link	Headline	Location
1	Arrests of Journalists	08/01/24	<a href="https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2024/01/09/manipur-editor-of-local-daily-granted-bail/">https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2024/01/09/manipur-editor-of-local-daily-granted-bail/</a>	Arrested editor gets bail	Manipur
1	Arrests of Journalists	19/02/24	<a href="https://www.republicworld.com/india/my-husbands-arrest-was-an-attempt-to-throttle-media-santupans-wife-in-nhrc-complaint/?amp=1">https://www.republicworld.com/india/my-husbands-arrest-was-an-attempt-to-throttle-media-santupans-wife-in-nhrc-complaint/?amp=1</a>	My Husband's Arrest Was an Attempt to Throttle Media: Santu Pan's Wife in NHRC Complaint	West Bengal
1	Arrests of Journalists	02/03/24	<a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/2/kashmiri-journalist-aasif-sultan-re-arrested-days-after-release">https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/2/kashmiri-journalist-aasif-sultan-re-arrested-days-after-release</a>	Kashmiri journalist Aasif Sultan rearrested days after release	Jammu Kashmir
1	Arrests of Journalists	07/03/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/india/uttarakhand-journalist-arrested-dgp-says-agenda-aims-to-sow-anarchy-9200042/">https://indianexpress.com/article/india/uttarakhand-journalist-arrested-dgp-says-agenda-aims-to-sow-anarchy-9200042/</a>	'Punished' for raising Ankita Bhandari murder case, says Oppn after journalist arrested in Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand
1	Arrests of Journalists	29/04/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/punjab-independent-journalist-arrested-in-extortion-case-9293493/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/punjab-independent-journalist-arrested-in-extortion-case-9293493/</a>	Independent journalist in Punjab arrested in alleged extortion case	Punjab
3	Attacks on Journalists	05/01/24	<a href="https://www.newsland.com/2024/02/20/were-soft-targets-in-sandeshkhali-journalists-attacked-by-mob-restricted-by-state">https://www.newsland.com/2024/02/20/were-soft-targets-in-sandeshkhali-journalists-attacked-by-mob-restricted-by-state</a>	'We're soft targets': In Sandeshkhali, journalists attacked by mob, restricted by state	West Bengal
1	Attacks on Journalists	06/01/24	<a href="https://www.newsland.com/2024/01/06/assam-journalist-says-bureaucrat-assaulted-him-cops-snatched-his-camera-for-asking-questions">https://www.newsland.com/2024/01/06/assam-journalist-says-bureaucrat-assaulted-him-cops-snatched-his-camera-for-asking-questions</a>	Assam journalist says bureaucrat 'assaulted' him, cops 'snatched his camera' for 'asking questions'	Assam

3	Attacks on Others	22/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event (each case of attack and censorship has been listed separately)	Maharashtra (Nagpur, Mira Road)
1	Attacks on Others	22/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event (each case of attack and censorship has been listed separately)	Maharashtra (Pune)
4	Attacks on Others	22/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event (each case of attack and censorship has been listed separately)	Madhya Pradesh (Jhabua)
1	Attacks on Others	22/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event	Gujarat
1	Attacks on Others	22/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event	Maharashtra (Panvel)
1	Attacks on Journalists	22/01/24	<a href="https://tripurainfo.com/news.aspx?intnid=19502&amp;title=Journalist--harassed-in--Belonia-by-BSF-BOP-in-charge--AOJ-%26-TWJA-demands-action-against-acoused">https://tripurainfo.com/news.aspx?intnid=19502&amp;title=Journalist--harassed-in--Belonia-by-BSF-BOP-in-charge--AOJ-%26-TWJA-demands-action-against-acoused</a>	Journalist harassed in Belonia by BSF BOP in-charge, AOJ & TWJA demands action against acoused	Tripura

1	Attacks on Journalist	24/01/24	<a href="https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tiruppur-news-7-tamil-tv-journalist-nesaprabhu-hacked-after-police-fail-to-respond-to-pleas-for-help/article67775289.ace">https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tiruppur-news-7-tamil-tv-journalist-nesaprabhu-hacked-after-police-fail-to-respond-to-pleas-for-help/article67775289.ace</a>	Murderous attack on TV journalist in Tiruppur, police failed to respond to pleas for help; two held	Tamil Nadu
1	Attacks on Journalist	25/01/24	<a href="https://www.deccanherald.com/india/tamil-nadu/journalist-brutally-attacked-in-tamil-nadus-tiruppur-battling-for-life-in-hospital-2864202">https://www.deccanherald.com/india/tamil-nadu/journalist-brutally-attacked-in-tamil-nadus-tiruppur-battling-for-life-in-hospital-2864202</a>	Journalist brutally attacked in Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur, battling for life in hospital	Tamil Nadu
1	Attacks on Journalists	25/01/24	<a href="https://theprint.in/india/tv-journalist-claims-cops-manhandled-him-scribes-union-meets-pune-commissioner/1941984/">https://theprint.in/india/tv-journalist-claims-cops-manhandled-him-scribes-union-meets-pune-commissioner/1941984/</a>	TV journalist claims cops manhandled him; scribes' union meets Pune commissioner	Maharashtra
10	Attacks on Journalists	08/02/24	<a href="https://www.newsland.com/2024/02/16/in-haldwani-clash-photojournalist-nearly-killed-mob-asks-reporters-to-show-video-footage">https://www.newsland.com/2024/02/16/in-haldwani-clash-photojournalist-nearly-killed-mob-asks-reporters-to-show-video-footage</a>	In Haldwani clash, photojournalist 'nearly killed', mob asks reporters to 'show video footage'	Uttarakhand
1	Attacks on Journalist	09/02/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/bjp-workers-opposition-activists-face-to-face-nirbhay-bano-event-pune-9153338/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/bjp-workers-opposition-activists-face-to-face-nirbhay-bano-event-pune-9153338/</a>	BJP-Opposition face off at Nirbhay Bano venue in Pune; eggs thrown at Nikhil Wagle's vehicle	Maharashtra
2	Attacks on Others	09/02/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/bjp-workers-opposition-activists-face-to-face-nirbhay-bano-event-pune-9153338/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/bjp-workers-opposition-activists-face-to-face-nirbhay-bano-event-pune-9153338/</a>	BJP-Opposition face off at Nirbhay Bano venue in Pune; eggs thrown at Nikhil Wagle's vehicle	Maharashtra
1	Attacks on Journalists	10/02/24	<a href="https://cpi.org/2024/02/indian-journalist-iyotiranjana-mohapatra-attacked-with-sword-in-bhubaneswar/">https://cpi.org/2024/02/indian-journalist-iyotiranjana-mohapatra-attacked-with-sword-in-bhubaneswar/</a>	Indian journalist Jyotiranjana Mohapatra attacked with sword in Bhubaneswar	Odisha
1	Attacks on Journalists	13/02/24	<a href="https://www.indiatoday.in/india/video/video-india-today-reporter-injured-during-farmers-protest-at-haryana-punjab-border-2501361-2024-02-13">https://www.indiatoday.in/india/video/video-india-today-reporter-injured-during-farmers-protest-at-haryana-punjab-border-2501361-2024-02-13</a>	India Today reporter injured during farmers' protest at Haryana-Punjab border	Haryana

1	Attacks on Journalists	13/02/24	<a href="https://www.thequint.com/news/journalist-hurt-at-farmers-protest-seeks-fir-against-haryana-police">https://www.thequint.com/news/journalist-hurt-at-farmers-protest-seeks-fir-against-haryana-police</a>	'It Could Have Killed Me': Scribe Hurt at Farm Stir Seeks FIR on Haryana Cops	Haryana
2	Attacks on Journalists	18/02/24	<a href="https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/bihar-angry-mob-attacks-police-journalists-in-nawgachhia-2-critically-injured-2503704-2024-02-18">https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/bihar-angry-mob-attacks-police-journalists-in-nawgachhia-2-critically-injured-2503704-2024-02-18</a>	Journalists injured in Bihar	Bihar
1	Attacks on Journalists	20/02/24	<a href="https://themangonews.com/andhra-pradesh-regional/miscreants-attacked-eeenadu-office-at-kurnool/">https://themangonews.com/andhra-pradesh-regional/miscreants-attacked-eeenadu-office-at-kurnool/</a>	Miscreants attacked Eenadu office at Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh
1	Attacks on Journalists	21/02/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/india/row-after-rahul-asks-tv-reporter-if-owner-of-channel-is-dalit-9174317/">https://indianexpress.com/article/india/row-after-rahul-asks-tv-reporter-if-owner-of-channel-is-dalit-9174317/</a>	Row after Rahul Gandhi asks TV reporter if owner of channel is Dalit	Uttar Pradesh
1	Attacks on Journalists	23/02/24	<a href="https://thesouthfirst.com/telegana/brs-alleges-congress-goons-attacked-telugu-journalist-hyderabad-police-dismiss-political-angle/">https://thesouthfirst.com/telegana/brs-alleges-congress-goons-attacked-telugu-journalist-hyderabad-police-dismiss-political-angle/</a>	BRS alleges 'Congress goons' attacked Telugu journalist; Hyderabad police dismiss political angle	Telangana
1	Attacks on Journalists	25/02/24	<a href="https://ukhrultimes.com/manipur-journalist-suffers-brutal-assault-media-bodies-demand-action/">https://ukhrultimes.com/manipur-journalist-suffers-brutal-assault-media-bodies-demand-action/</a>	Manipur journalist suffers brutal assault, media bodies demand action	Manipur
2	Attacks on Journalists	26/03/24	<a href="https://www.newsclick.in/press-club-india-condemns-manhandling-photojournalists-delhi-police">https://www.newsclick.in/press-club-india-condemns-manhandling-photojournalists-delhi-police</a>	Press Club of India Condemns Manhandling of Photojournalists by Delhi Police	Delhi
4	Attacks on Journalists	26/04/24	<a href="https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2024/04/26/lok-sabha-elections-2024-iuim-workers-journalists-report-bogus-voting.html">https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2024/04/26/lok-sabha-elections-2024-iuim-workers-journalists-report-bogus-voting.html</a>	Journalists reporting on bogus voting allegation in Kasaragod attacked...	Kerala
1	Censorship of Social Media	04/01/24	<a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thane/objectionable-posts-against-shivaji-2-persons-booked/articleshow/106529045.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thane/objectionable-posts-against-shivaji-2-persons-booked/articleshow/106529045.cms</a>	Posts against Shivaji, Two booked	Maharashtra (Mumbai)

1	Censorship of Entertainment	07/01/24	<a href="https://www.outlookindia.com/art-entertainment/filmmaker-mukesh-modi-appeals-to-pm-narendra-modi-expresses-discontent-with-cbfc-over-political-war--news-341441">https://www.outlookindia.com/art-entertainment/filmmaker-mukesh-modi-appeals-to-pm-narendra-modi-expresses-discontent-with-cbfc-over-political-war--news-341441</a>	Filmmaker Mukesh Modi Appeals To PM Narendra Modi, Expresses Discontent With CBFC Over 'Political War'	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Academia	09/01/24	<a href="https://www.thequint.com/south-india/kerala-starbucks-palestine-posters-kozhikode-students-arrested-bail">https://www.thequint.com/south-india/kerala-starbucks-palestine-posters-kozhikode-students-arrested-bail</a>	Awareness on Palestine': 6 Students Held for Protesting at Kozhikode Starbucks	Kerala (Kozhikode)
1	Censorship of Entertainment	12/01/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/annapoorani-vishwa-hindu-parishad-nayanthara-hindu-religious-sentiments-9107100/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/annapoorani-vishwa-hindu-parishad-nayanthara-hindu-religious-sentiments-9107100/</a>	Row over film Annapoorani: On VHP's plaint, cops book actor Nayanthara, producer, Netflix, four others	Maharashtra (Thane)
1	Censorship of News Media	13/01/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/india/marathi-news-channel-proprietors-move-hc-against-1-month-suspension-order-9107306/">https://indianexpress.com/article/india/marathi-news-channel-proprietors-move-hc-against-1-month-suspension-order-9107306/</a>	Marathi news channel proprietors move: HC against 1-month suspension order	Maharashtra (Mumbai)
1	Censorship of Social Media	16/01/24	<a href="https://globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/cases/shiv-sidharth-v-state-of-uttar-pradesh/">https://globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/cases/shiv-sidharth-v-state-of-uttar-pradesh/</a>	This Website Tracked Hate Crimes in India. Then the Government Took It Offline	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Academia	21/01/24	<a href="https://www.oneindia.com/india/unauthorized-documentary-screening-hyderabad-gen-3731935.html">https://www.oneindia.com/india/unauthorized-documentary-screening-hyderabad-gen-3731935.html</a>	Documentary Screening Controversy: 4 Arrested in Hyderabad for Disturbing Peace	Telangana (Hyderabad)
1	Censorship of Academia	21/01/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/ram-mandir-inauguration-tiss-tiss-campus-protests-ram-mandir-pran-pratishtha-9118151/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/ram-mandir-inauguration-tiss-tiss-campus-protests-ram-mandir-pran-pratishtha-9118151/</a>	TISS warns students against holding protests on campus	Maharashtra (Mumbai)

1	Censorship of Academia	21/01/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/ram-mandir-inauguration-tiss-tiss-campus-protests-ram-mandir-pran-pratishtha-9118151/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/ram-mandir-inauguration-tiss-tiss-campus-protests-ram-mandir-pran-pratishtha-9118151/</a>	Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle (APPSC) has objected to a line of events scheduled on Monday on the campus. Saying that the events are against the recently declared guidelines by the institute on holding political events	Maharashtra (Mumbai)
1	Censorship of Entertainment	21/01/24	<a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/107063225.cms?from=mdr&amp;utm_source=contentofinterest&amp;utm_medium=text&amp;utm_campaign=cppst">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/107063225.cms?from=mdr&amp;utm_source=contentofinterest&amp;utm_medium=text&amp;utm_campaign=cppst</a>	Telangana high court quashes censor nod for biopic on Andhra CM	Telangana
1	Censorship of Social Media	21/01/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ahead-of-ram-temple-consecration-centre-blocks-100-9120133/">https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ahead-of-ram-temple-consecration-centre-blocks-100-9120133/</a>	Ahead of Ram Temple consecration, Centre blocks 100 social media accounts, asks police to increase presence in sensitive areas	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Academia	22/01/24	<a href="https://maktoobmedia.com/india/hindutva-men-charge-into-ftii-pune-burn-remember-babri-banner-attack-students/">https://maktoobmedia.com/india/hindutva-men-charge-into-ftii-pune-burn-remember-babri-banner-attack-students/</a>	Hindutva mob barges into FTII Pune, burns down posters about Babri Masjid demolition	Maharashtra (Pune)
1	Censorship of Social Media	22/01/24	<a href="https://internetfreedom.in/voter-surveillance-nic-withdraws-tender/">https://internetfreedom.in/voter-surveillance-nic-withdraws-tender/</a>	Hindutva Watch Becomes Latest Victim of Opaque Internet Censorship in India	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Academia	23/01/24	<a href="https://theleaflet.in/do-teachers-have-a-right-to-unionise-or-voice-their-opinions-bihar-government-says-no/?utm_campaign=23-january-2024&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source=acumbamail">https://theleaflet.in/do-teachers-have-a-right-to-unionise-or-voice-their-opinions-bihar-government-says-no/?utm_campaign=23-january-2024&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source=acumbamail</a>	Do teachers have a right to unionise or voice their opinions? Bihar government says no	Bihar (Patna)

1	Censorship of Academia	23/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event (each case of attack and censorship has been listed separately)	Kerala
1	Censorship of Academia	23/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event (each case of attack and censorship has been listed separately)	Maharashtra
1	Censorship of Entertainment	23/01/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event">https://thewire.in/comunalism/violent-clashes-crackdown-on-documentary-screening-on-day-of-ram-temple-event</a>	Violent Clashes, Crackdown on Documentary Screening on Day of Ram Temple Event (each case of attack and censorship has been listed separately)	Telangana (Hyderabad)
1	Censorship of News Media	23/01/24	<a href="https://theprint.in/india/french-journalist-issued-notice-for-withdrawal-of-oci-card-over-malicious-reporting-visa-violations/1934642/">https://theprint.in/india/french-journalist-issued-notice-for-withdrawal-of-oci-card-over-malicious-reporting-visa-violations/1934642/</a>	French journalist issued notice for withdrawal of OCI card over 'malicious' reporting, visa violations	Nationwide
1	Censorship of News Media	13/02/24	<a href="https://www.barrons.com/news/indian-magazine-ordered-to-delete-kashmir-army-killings-report-0f4d6a05">https://www.barrons.com/news/indian-magazine-ordered-to-delete-kashmir-army-killings-report-0f4d6a05</a>	Indian Magazine Ordered To Delete Kashmir Army Killings Report	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Social Media	13/02/24	<a href="https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/02/13/goi-cancels-over-100-oci-cards-indian-embassies-ordered-to-stop-those-criticising-modi-and-hindutva-rti/">https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/02/13/goi-cancels-over-100-oci-cards-indian-embassies-ordered-to-stop-those-criticising-modi-and-hindutva-rti/</a>	INDIAGoi cancels over 100 OCI cards, Indian embassies ordered to stop those criticising Modi and Hindutva: RTI	Nationwide

1	Censorship of News Media	19/02/24	<a href="https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/national/editors-guild-asks-govt-to-exempt-journalists-from-certain-clauses-of-the-data-protection-act">https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/national/editors-guild-asks-govt-to-exempt-journalists-from-certain-clauses-of-the-data-protection-act</a>	EGI Seeks Journalistic Exemption in India's New Data Protection Act	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Social Media	23/02/24	<a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/gadgets-news/indian-government-orders-x-to-withhold-accounts-and-posts/articleshow/107946457.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/gadgets-news/indian-government-orders-x-to-withhold-accounts-and-posts/articleshow/107946457.cms</a>	X says Indian government has 'ordered' to withhold some accounts and posts	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Academia	29/02/24	<a href="https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/nitasha-kaul-uk-academic-sovereign-india-claims-denied-entry-kashmir-2508724-2024-02-29">https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/nitasha-kaul-uk-academic-sovereign-india-claims-denied-entry-kashmir-2508724-2024-02-29</a>	Sovereign decision': India after UK academic claims denied entry into country	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Entertainment	03/03/24	<a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/malayalam/movies/news/censor-board-demands-removal-of-bharatha-from-the-upcoming-malayalam-movie/articleshow/108176831.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/malayalam/movies/news/censor-board-demands-removal-of-bharatha-from-the-upcoming-malayalam-movie/articleshow/108176831.cms</a>	Censor Board demands removal of 'Bharatha' from the upcoming Malayalam movie	Nationwide
1	Censorship of News Media	03/03/24	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESD6oGjptJ8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESD6oGjptJ8</a>	Mamata's Minister Issues Open Threat to Media: BJP Posts Video	West Bengal
1	Censorship of News Media	03/03/24	<a href="https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2024/Mar/03/take-action-against-google-for-tarnishing-pms-image-aiba-to-modi">https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2024/Mar/03/take-action-against-google-for-tarnishing-pms-image-aiba-to-modi</a>	Take action against Google for tarnishing PM's image: AIBA to Modi	Nationwide
1	Censorship of News Media	03/04/24	<a href="https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/">https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/</a>	Blocked, Demonetised, And Censored: What Some News Channels In India Are Facing On YouTube (Each channels listed as a separate instance)	Nationwide

1	Censorship of News Media	03/04/24	<a href="https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/">https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/</a>	Blocked, Demonetised, And Censored: What Some News Channels In India Are Facing On YouTube (Each channels listed as a separate instance)	Nationwide
1	Censorship of News Media	04/04/24	<a href="https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/">https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/</a>	Blocked, Demonetised, And Censored: What Some News Channels In India Are Facing On YouTube (Each channels listed as a separate instance)	Nationwide
1	Censorship of News Media	09/04/24	<a href="https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/">https://www.medianama.com/2024/04/223-blocked-demonetised-censored-news-channels-india-youtube/</a>	Blocked, Demonetised, And Censored: What Some News Channels In India Are Facing On YouTube (Each channels listed as a separate instance)	Nationwide
1	Censorship of Academia	20/04/24	<a href="https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/mumbai-news/tiss-suspends-phd-scholar-for-activism-101713553441616.html">https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/mumbai-news/tiss-suspends-phd-scholar-for-activism-101713553441616.html</a>	TISS suspends PhD scholar for screening banned BBC documentary	Nationwide
1	Censorship of News Media	23/04/24	<a href="https://www.outlookindia.com/national/australian-journalist-avani-dias-leaves-india-after-visa-denial-because-her-reporting-crossed-a-line">https://www.outlookindia.com/national/australian-journalist-avani-dias-leaves-india-after-visa-denial-because-her-reporting-crossed-a-line</a>	Australian Journalist Avani Dias Leaves India After Visa Denial Because Her Work 'Crossed A Line', Govt Sources Call Claim 'Misleading'	Nationwide

7	Censorship of Academia	22/04/24	<a href="https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/dalit-teachers-face-action-for-holding-discussions-on-ambedkars-works-on-varsity-campus/cid/2014839">https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/dalit-teachers-face-action-for-holding-discussions-on-ambedkars-works-on-varsity-campus/cid/2014839</a>	Dalit teachers face action for holding discussions on Ambedkar's works on varsity campus	Maharashtra (Wardha)
6	Censorship of Academia	25/04/24	<a href="https://www.thenewsminute.com/telegana/hyderabad-university-fines-six-students-for-organising-palestine-solidarity-march">https://www.thenewsminute.com/telegana/hyderabad-university-fines-six-students-for-organising-palestine-solidarity-march</a>	Hyderabad University fines six students for organising Palestine solidarity march	Telangana (Hyderabad)
1	Censorship of Academia	26/04/24	<a href="https://newsmeter.in/top-stories/post-suspension-of-phd-scholar-tiss-bans-political-activities-on-all-campuses-includinghyderabad-728348">https://newsmeter.in/top-stories/post-suspension-of-phd-scholar-tiss-bans-political-activities-on-all-campuses-includinghyderabad-728348</a>	Post suspension of PhD scholar, TISS bans political activities on all campuses including Hyderabad (newsmeter.in)	Nationwide
1	Harassment of media	26/01/24	<a href="https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/journalists-condemn-annamalais-inappropriate-conduct-demand-criminal-defamation-case/article67777012.ence">https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/journalists-condemn-annamalais-inappropriate-conduct-demand-criminal-defamation-case/article67777012.ence</a>	Journalists condemn Annamalai's inappropriate conduct; demand criminal defamation case	Tamil Nadu
24	Internet Control	Until April 5 2024	<a href="https://internetshutdowns.in/">https://internetshutdowns.in/</a>	Visit the link for details of different cases	Visit the link for details of different cases
3	Lawfare against Journalists	06/01/24	<a href="https://www.jurist.org/news/2024/01/criminal-complaint-against-journalists-in-india-after-report-on-alleged-liquor-scam/">https://www.jurist.org/news/2024/01/criminal-complaint-against-journalists-in-india-after-report-on-alleged-liquor-scam/</a>	Criminal complaint against journalists in India after report on alleged liquor scam	Jharkhand

1	Defamation against Citizens	15/01/24	<a href="https://www.indialegal.live.com/constitutional-law-news/courts-news/aiadmkyoutuber-defamation/">https://www.indialegal.live.com/constitutional-law-news/courts-news/aiadmkyoutuber-defamation/</a>	Madras High Court asks YouTuber to pay Rs 50 lakh compensation for defaming AIADMK spokesperson Apsara Reddy	Tamil Nadu
1	Lawfare against Citizens	24/01/24	<a href="https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mumbai-police-book-ncp-mla-for-remarks-on-lord-ram/article67713293.ece">https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mumbai-police-book-ncp-mla-for-remarks-on-lord-ram/article67713293.ece</a>	Mumbai police book NCP MLA for remarks on Lord Ram	Maharashtra
1	Defamation against Journalists	10/02/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/fir-journalist-nikhil-wagle-pune-l-k-advanis-bharat-ratna-9152629/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/fir-journalist-nikhil-wagle-pune-l-k-advanis-bharat-ratna-9152629/</a>	Journalist Nikhil Wagle booked in Pune for post on Advani's Bharat Ratna	Maharashtra
1	Defamation against Journalists	29/02/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/media/in-uttar-pradesh-journalist-booked-for-defamation-for-posting-wrong-images-on-x">https://thewire.in/media/in-uttar-pradesh-journalist-booked-for-defamation-for-posting-wrong-images-on-x</a>	In Uttar Pradesh, Journalist Booked For Defamation For Posting Wrong Images on X	Uttar Pradesh
1	Threat to Journalists	09/02/24	<a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/bjp-workers-opposition-activists-face-to-face-nirbhay-bano-event-pune-9153338/">https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/bjp-workers-opposition-activists-face-to-face-nirbhay-bano-event-pune-9153338/</a>	BJP-Opposition face off at Nirbhay Bano venue in Pune; eggs thrown at Nikhil Wagle's vehicle	Maharashtra
1	Threat to Citizens	10/02/24	<a href="https://thewire.in/comunalism/assam-hindu-group-threatens-christian-schools-to-remove-religious-symbols-or-face-dire-outcome">https://thewire.in/comunalism/assam-hindu-group-threatens-christian-schools-to-remove-religious-symbols-or-face-dire-outcome</a>	Assam: Hindu Group Threatens Christian Schools to Remove Religious Symbols or 'Face Dire Outcome'	Assam
1	Threat to Citizens	06/01/24	<a href="https://twitter.com/HindutvaWatchIn/status/1743859757511786869">https://twitter.com/HindutvaWatchIn/status/1743859757511786869</a>	BJP leader and Telangana legislator T Raja Singh delivers an extremely dangerous speech against Muslims, using anti-Muslim slurs and openly calling for violence.	Telangana

1	Threat to Citizens	08/01/24	<a href="https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/bjp-mlas-nitesh-rane-t-raja-singh-booked-for-hate-speech-at-solapur-rally/article67718110.ence">https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/bjp-mlas-nitesh-rane-t-raja-singh-booked-for-hate-speech-at-solapur-rally/article67718110.ence</a>	BJP MLAs Nitesh Rane, T. Raja Singh booked for hate speech at Solapur rally	Maharashtra
1	Threat to Journalists	26/04/24	<a href="https://timelinedaily.com/elections/mumbai-press-club-condemns-threats-against-journalist-following-article-on-bjps-piyush-goyal">https://timelinedaily.com/elections/mumbai-press-club-condemns-threats-against-journalist-following-article-on-bjps-piyush-goyal</a>	Mumbai Press Club Condemns Threats Against Journalist Following Article On BJP's Piyush Goyal	Maharashtra