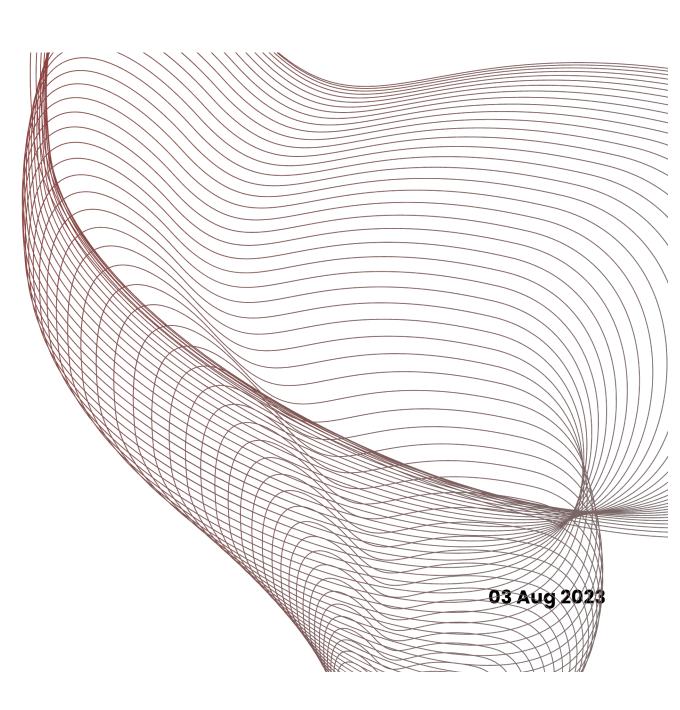


### Haryana Violence



#### **Ronnie Ninan**

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# Background of Violence

- Location: Mewat Nuh, Haryana, near Gurugram.
- Event: Vishwa Hindu Parishad's 'Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra.'
- **Route:** The procession planned to pass through Gurugram, Sohna, Nuh, Palwal, Faridabad, and Badshahpur.
- Date: 31 Jul 2023 onwards
- **Result:** The violence escalated across multiple villages, sparking questions about police preparedness and administrative action in the region. As of this report, 6 dead, 200+ injured
- **Context**: Nuh has a complex history of religious, cultural, and social dynamics, making this incident particularly concerning for authorities and community relations.
- Action: Efforts were made to restore order and investigate the causes of the clashes, reflecting broader governance and law enforcement challenges in Nuh.



## Timeline

#### • 31 Jul - 01 Aug

- Violence Initiated: 6 dead, 120+ injured.
- **Prohibitions**: Fuel stations, Internet services suspended in various districts.
- Impacted Roads: Bharatpur, Palwal border, Nuh, Faridabad, Sohna, Pataudi, Manesar.

- 02 Aug
  - **Protests and Assemblies**: Noida stadium, Manesar Maha panchayat, Delhi locations.
  - Educational Institutions: Closed in affected areas.
  - Prohibitory Orders: Nuh, Gurugram.
- 03 Aug
  - **Security Increased:** Gurugram sectors 56, 57, 66, 70.
  - **Educational Institutions**: Reopened in Gurugram and Sub Division Sohna.
  - Casualties: 6 dead, 200+ injured.



### Areas Affected & Casualties

### • **Haryana**: Gurugram, Badshahpur, Nuh, Palwal, Faridabad, Sohna.

- Delhi: Specific peaceful protest locations.
- Uttar Pradesh: Kanpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar.
- Rajasthan: Sikar, Alwar, Bharatpur.
- Maharashtra: Variety Square, Nagpur.
- Deaths: 6 confirmed.
- Injuries: More than 120.
- Note: Casualties may rise.

#### Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra:

- Initiated by VHP to revive sacred Hindu sites.
- Includes Nalhar Mahadev Temple, Jhirakeshwar Mahadev, Radha Krishna Temple, and Shringeshwar Mahadev Temple.
- Participation from Gau Raksha Dal, Bajrang Dal, and around 25,000 devotees.



## Impact & Implications

- Work Arrangements: Work-from-home orders for many companies in Gurugram.
- **Travel Restrictions**: Radio cabs not operating to affected areas.
- E-commerce Impact: Increased delivery times.
- **Traffic Movement**: Mostly smooth; no impact on Delhi-Gurugram highway.
- **Supreme Court Notice**: Issued to UP, Haryana, Delhi governments.

- Delhi Alert: High alert status.
- **UP Alert**: Saharanpur, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar districts.
- Forces Deployed: 20 companies in Haryana.
- Online Monitoring: 3-member committee to check for violent posts.
- **Prohibitory Orders**: In parts of Rajasthan till 10th August.



### Overview of Nuh District

#### Nuh District Overview:

- Formerly known as Mewat, home to ancient Hindu sites.
- <u>Location</u>: Situated 57 km from Gurugram and a three-hour drive from Delhi.
- <u>Demographics (2011 Census)</u>:
  - Muslim Population: 79.2%
  - Hindu Population: 20.37%
- Education:
  - Female Literacy: 51%
  - Employable Population Engaged in Work: 27%

#### Cybercrime:

- Increase in Cases (2021): 11.8%
- Share of India's Cybercrimes: Nearly 12%
- Solved Cases of Cyberfraud: 28,000 worth ₹100 crore
- Cattle Vigilantism:
  - Cow Smuggling Cases in Haryana: Threefourths originated in Nuh
  - Monthly Cases under HGSG Act: 15



#### **Economic Conditions:**

- Poorest District in Northern India, after Bharatpur in Rajasthan
- Limited employment opportunities, illiteracy, lack of skill development

#### **Historical Syncretism:**

- Meo community: Influenced by Tablighi Jamaat
- Historical Integration of Hindu and Muslim practices

#### **Conflict and Crime:**

- High Crime Region
- No communal riots in the last five years
- Emerging as India's newest hub for cybercriminals

#### Political and Development Programs:

- Included in a list of aspirational (backward) districts
- Part of the 2008 Multi-Sectoral Development Programme

#### Covid-19 Impact:

- Accounted for over a fourth of Haryana's active cases in early 2020
- Successfully managed through public outreach campaigns

#### Cultural and Historical Importance:

- Mewat region's significance to Hindus, tracing back to the epic Mahabharata
- Local heroes and figures revered by multiple religious communities



### Who is Monu Manesar?



#### **Personal Background:**

- Alias: Mohit Yadav
- Origin: Manesar near Gurugram
- Education: Polytechnic diploma holder
- Affiliation: Bajrang Dal member and cow vigilante



- Head of Goraksha Dal: A cow protection task force unit of the Bajrang Dal in Haryana.
- Modus Operandi:
  - Receives tips about suspicious vehicles (possibly related to cow smuggling).
  - Reports to police; if they don't respond, apprehends suspects with accomplices.

#### Strong Presence on Social Media:

- Over 200,000 subscribers on YouTube and 83,000 followers on Facebook.
- Live-streams videos of chases; posts celebrate their 'conquests'.
- Inflammatory posts



# Contributing Factors

#### Cow Vigilantism:

- Cow slaughter illegal in Haryana; punishments up to 10 years in prison.
- Increase in cow vigilantism since 2014.
- Notable incidents: Murder of Pehlu Khan; Lynching of Junaid and Nasir led by Monu Manesar (February 2023).
- Mahapanchayats in Nuh for anti-Muslim violence; mass protests in Ferozepur Jhirka.

#### Public Muslim Prayers and State Authority:

- Alleged vigilante attacks on Muslims praying in public areas over the past 7-8 months.
- Communal tension related to cow protection and religious practices.

#### Cyber Crime and Unrest in Nuh:

- Unrelated to religious tensions, a group engaged in cyber crime.
- Cyber crime police unit's involvement; arrests across religious lines.
- General unrest within youth and two religious communities.



### Assessment

#### **Communal Tensions Escalating into Wider Conflict**

- Probability: Medium to High
- Impact: High
  - **Historical Background:** Nuh's history, including the presence of Meo Muslims with cultural practices drawn from both Hinduism and Islam, creates a unique and complex religious fabric that can be a flashpoint.
  - **Cow Vigilantism:** Incidents related to cow vigilantism have occurred, potentially escalating tensions between different religious groups.
  - External Influences: The activities of both Muslim and Hindu groups in the region add to the fault lines.
  - **Recent Killings and Events:** Specific incidents such as the recent killings related to cow vigilantism might serve as triggers.



#### **Political Exploitation**

- Probability: Medium to High
- Impact: High
  - **Party Politics:** The region has been on the radar of various political parties, and tensions in Nuh might be leveraged for political purposes, especially in the context of religious dynamics.
  - Yatra and Religious Mobilization: The focus on revitalizing Hindu sacred spots through yatras may have political undertones, potentially fueling religious divisions.
  - Lack of Coordination: The existing criticism over lack of coordination between intelligence, police, and administration can lead to political blame games, complicating resolution efforts.
  - **Policing and Political Influence:** Past instances where police looked to political masters for directions indicate the risks of political interference in law enforcement.



#### **Social Media Fueling Unrest**

- Probability: High
- Impact: Medium
  - **Cybercrime Hub**: Nuh's reputation as a breeding ground for cybercrime, including the use of social media platforms, indicates a heightened risk of misuse.
  - **Misinformation Spread**: The rapid spread of false information or provocative content may lead to misunderstandings, escalations, and may polarize communities further.

#### Long-term Social Division

- Probability: Medium
- Impact: Medium
  - **Community Dynamics:** The unique blend of cultural practices in Nuh may create fault lines that can lead to deep-seated divisions.
  - **Historical Conflict:** The history of both syncretism and conflict may further complicate communal relations.
  - **Impact on Development:** Long-standing divisions can negatively affect social cohesion, making initiatives for education, employment, and overall development more challenging.



#### **Operational Disruptions**

- Probability: High
- Impact: Medium to High
  - **Proximity to Industrial Centers:** Nuh's proximity to major industrial and business hubs like Gurugram could translate local unrest into broader economic impact.
  - **Supply Chain Interruptions:** Unrest and law enforcement actions might disrupt transportation and the movement of goods, affecting regional supply chains.
  - **Impact on Local Employment and Economy:** Local disruptions can lead to job losses and economic stagnation, further fueling discontent.

