

Rapid Sharing of Islamophobic Hate on Facebook: The Case of the Tablighi Jamaat Controversy

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Research Article

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Rapid Sharing of Islamophobic Hate on Facebook: The Case of the Tablighi Jamaat Controversy

During the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world saw lots of incidents of hate speech, xenophobia, and discrimination where a specific community or people were targeted or accused of being spreaders of the Coronavirus disease. One such prominent episode happened in India, where the Muslim community was targeted for spreading COVID-19. This episode later became known as the “Tablighi Jamaat Controversy” (TJC). We analyzed Facebook posts by public groups during the five months (March to August 2020) that this furor raged to find the major actors and their link-sharing behavior and the presence of (if any) fake news and misinformation. We found that Islamophobic hate speech was spread by the Facebook groups that are Pro-BJP (Bhartiya Janta Party – the leading party in the present Indian government) and have a right-wing ideology, while other groups (anti-hate) were countering the hate. We also found that the hate spreaders were extremely active (three times faster) in sharing their content compared to the anti-hate groups. Lastly, we also found that the highly shared links by the hate spreaders were mostly misinformation. Compared to that, all of the highly shared links by the anti-hate groups were authentic. These results not only explain the usage of the Facebook platform to spread hate and misinformation but also demonstrate how BJP’s pro-Hindu ideology and attitude is directly or indirectly enabling these actors to spew hate against minorities, especially Muslims, with no legal consequences.

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Research questions

- Which Facebook groups or entities spread Islamophobic hate during the Tablighi Jamaat Controversy (TJC)?
- What is the rapid link-sharing behavior of anti-Muslim and anti-hate groups during the TJC?
- How did anti-Muslim Facebook groups use fake news and misinformation to spread Islamophobic hate during the TJC?

Essay summary

- We collected 14,656 Tablighi Jamaat-related posts on Facebook and analyzed the activities of 11 anti-Muslim and 11 anti-hate groups.
- Our results found that several anti-Muslim groups are pro-BJP and hypernationalist, while anti-hate groups include ones with a liberal ideology and oppose BJP’s anti-Muslim laws and propaganda.
- Results show that the rapid link-sharing behavior of the anti-Muslim groups is approximately three times faster than the link sharing of the anti-hate groups.
- Furthermore, when analyzing the top 20 highest shared links by anti-Muslim groups, we found that these groups mostly shared fake or unauthentic news, whereas none of the top 20 highly shared links posted by anti-hate groups were unauthentic.
- These results can be useful in creating a watch list of Facebook public groups that can be monitored for hate speech and misinformation. This can help control online harm in the future.

Implications

The wave of racism, hate, and xenophobia was so strong during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic that on May 8, 2020, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres had to make a public statement and ask the governments to take urgent action to stop the hate crimes. He said that “the pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering” and urged governments to “act now to strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate” (Human Rights Watch, 2020). STOP AAPI HATE – a reporting center created by a coalition of Asian American groups – reported 1500 incidents of discrimination, physical violence, hate speech, xenophobia, and racism in just one month between March and April 2020 (Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, 2020). Several studies have examined the role of social media in spreading racism, hate speech, and xenophobia during COVID-19 (Ziems et al., 2020; Cotik et al., 2020; Vidgen et al., 2020; Tahmasbi et al., 2021).

Islamophobia can be defined as “hatred or fear of Muslims or their politics or culture” (Harper Collins Publishers, 2022). Whether Islamophobia should be categorized as a form of racism or xenophobia is the subject of an ongoing debate. However, Islamophobia is certainly a social evil that has taken deep root in the world, especially after the attacks of September 11, 2001. In countries where the Muslim community has a substantial share in demography, conservative political parties have been regularly using Islamophobia as a political agenda to garner votes (Bukar, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic provided another opportunity to conservative and right-wing political leaders and their supporters to target Muslims. As a result, Islamophobic hate speech and fake news proliferated and manifested itself on social media, leading not only to physical violence against Muslims but also to a boycott of Muslim businesses, essential workers, and health and relief workers (Equality Labs, 2020).

Our research takes the case of the Tablighi Jamaat Controversy (TJC) that happened in India to study Islamophobic hate speech and misinformation on Facebook. Tablighi Jamaat is a transnational Sunni Islamic missionary movement founded in 1926, and around 80 million Muslims participate in its activities every year (Pieri, 2021). In early March 2020, one such congregation of Tablighi Jamaat took place in New Delhi, which became a superspreader event with more than 400 members infected (Slater et al., 2020). This event allowed the right-wing, hypernationalist anti-Muslim groups to spread Islamophobic hate speech and fake news against Muslims during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. Our findings highlighted the actors that were spreading Islamophobic hate. We found that several groups that associate themselves with right-wing ideology and promote pro-BJP propaganda were spreading hate against Muslims. They were comparatively faster in disseminating fake news and misinformation than anti-hate public groups.

BJP is the leading political party in the current ruling dispensation in India. It has very close ties to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) – the right-wing Hindu nationalist organization and proponent of Hindu Rashtra (“Hindu nation”) (Frayer & Khan, 2019). Several prominent leaders of BJP, including the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, belong to RSS. Under the current government, India has been morphed into an “ethnic democracy,” which equates the majority Hindus as the nation and relegates Christians and Muslims to roles of second-class citizens (Chatterji et al., 2019; Jafferlot, 2021).

The extremely polarized social environment of India under the current government is also visible in the virtual/digital world. One look at the various social media platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, and YouTube, is enough to attest to the changing nature of Indian society (from a liberal democracy to ethnic democracy). BJP has its so-called IT cell, which runs all kinds of propaganda on social media (Neyazi, 2019; Mahapatra & Plagemann, 2019; Jose, 2021). The Tablighi Jamaat incident during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic provided the supporters of the Hindutva ideology (anti-Muslim)

group to further polarize the country by spreading online hate using the tools of fake news and misinformation (Arabaghatta Basavaraj et al., 2021). More than 100 instances of viral Islamophobic fake news during the Coronavirus pandemic were reported between March and May 2020 (Media Scanner, 2020). At one point during this controversy, even the Indian government was profiling (religious profiling) the Tablighi members and explicitly mentioning the total number of infections overall and infections among Tablighi members. This was condemned by the Emergency Program Director of WHO, Mike Ryan (Jain, 2020). As Figure 1 shows, on April 19, 2020, PM Narendra Modi tweeted against discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this tweet came only after the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) criticized the Islamophobic campaign in India by maligning Muslims for the spread of Coronavirus.



Figure 1. Tweets by PMO India and OIC-IPHRC

Investigative journalists and researchers have been writing about how the Hindu nationalists (right-wing and BJP supporters) have spread Islamophobia and hate speech on social media in India (Basu, 2019; Mirchandani, 2018; Bilaval, 2021; Dotto & Swinnen, 2021). However, not much research has been done on Facebook. To the best of our knowledge, our paper is the first study that analyzed “Tablighi Jamaat Controversy” by utilizing Facebook data. Our results identified some of those hate-spreading groups on Facebook. Our research findings show that several actors that were spreading hate, fake news, and misinformation are supporters of BJP ideology. The findings align with the previous research by political and social scientists who are suggesting that India is becoming a dangerous place for Muslims under the Narendra Modi government (Chacko & Talukar, 2020; Chatterji et al., 2019; Jafferlot, 2021).

India is Facebook’s largest market with 340 million users (Statista, 2021), but internal documents leaked in 2021 (known as the “Facebook Papers”) revealed several concerning details about the government’s inability to control the hate speech and misinformation in India due to a lack of resources and expertise (Frankel & Alba, 2021). Further, these internal documents also revealed how a 2019 case study conducted by Facebook to study “adversarial harm networks in India” by examining RSS found that its groups and pages were spreading hate speech and misleading content but did not penalize RSS due to the “political sensitivities” that could affect its operation in India (Zakrzewski et al. 2021; Frankel & Alba, 2021; Newton, 2021). Our findings demonstrate similar evidence about the involvement of Hindu nationalist groups and supporters of BJP in spreading hate speech and fake news during TJC. However, we noticed that these groups are still active and continue to spread anti-Muslim propaganda and hate on Facebook (as of February 10, 2022).

Findings

Finding 1: Out of 168 highly active and connected public Facebook groups who were posting in connection

with “Tablighi Jamaat,” 11 were anti-Muslim groups and the other 157 were anti-hate groups.

We analyzed 14,656 Tablighi Jamaat-related posts between March 22, 2020, and August 28, 2020 (see Dataset).¹ Using the CoorNet package (Giglietto et al., 2020), we found 168 highly active Facebook public groups. Then we created a network of these 168 groups by using Gephi software (Bastian et al., 2009). Figure 2 shows that this network is divided into two distinct clusters – a small cluster on the upper-left corner has 11 nodes (entities/groups) and includes public groups, such as Dr. Subramaniam Swamy (BJP politician infamous for his anti-Muslim views), Saffron Bharat (Saffron is the chosen color of RSS and BJP), and MODified India (incorporating the Indian PM’s family name), which indicates their support for the BJP’s Hindu nationalist ideology. We termed this the anti-Muslim cluster. The bigger cluster has 157 nodes, with some of the larger nodes including public groups, such as Dr. Ram Puniyani Official (a well-known human rights activist involved in opposing Hindu fundamentalism), Ravish Kumar (Magsaysay Award-winning journalist), and the Mahua Moitra Group (Mahua Moitra is Member of Lok Sabha and belongs to the All-India Trinamool Congress Party). Most of the public groups are against hate and are supporters of India’s secular and liberal identity. Hence, we named it the anti-hate cluster. Note that the node size is proportional to the number of coordinated shares in Figure 2. Overall (out of 168 nodes), the three largest nodes are 1) Dr. Subramaniam Swamy with 81 coordinated shares, 2) the Indian Liberals with 64 coordinated shares, and 3) We Support Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) (CAB) & (NRC) with 49 coordinated shares. The first and third belong to the anti-Muslim cluster, while the second belongs to the anti-hate cluster. Table 1 shows 11 anti-Muslim and 11 anti-hate entities along with their node id and coordinated shares.

Table 1. Anti-Muslim and Anti-Hate Entities

Anti-Muslim Entities			Anti-Hate Entities		
Id	Account Name	Coordinated Shares	Id	Account Name	Coordinated Shares
n20	Dr. Subramaniam Swamy	81	n7	The Indian Liberals	64
n44	We Support Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) (CAB) & NRC	49	n12	Dr.Ram Puniyani- official 	37
n42	Saffron Bharat	37	n2	अररिया (बिहार) की आवाज़	35
n41	Bombay Liberals	34	n17	Ravish Kumar 	27
n34	Indians and Friends in Sweden	26	n9	IAE - India Against EVM	27
n33	Indian Parents and Friends in Sweden	24	n1	Mahua Moitra Group	23
n35	Republic Tv	21	n3	WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA - Boycott CAA/NRC/NPR	21
n162	MODified India जागरूक भारत	19	n30	 रविश, अभिसार, प्रसून बाजपाई क्लब 	20
n13	भाजपा मिशन 2024	14	n26	India against the citizenship amendment Bill (CAB)	17
n43	Support UCC (Uniform Civil Code) in India	13	n63	NDTV India News 	17
n154	Arnab Goswami fan club	11	n55	MahuaMoitraFans	15

¹ We collected 17,448 posts between Jan 1, 2020, and Nov 22, 2021. The “Tablighi Jamaat Controversy” was dominant during March 26, 2020, and August 22, 2020. Figure 6 shows the distribution of Facebook posts.

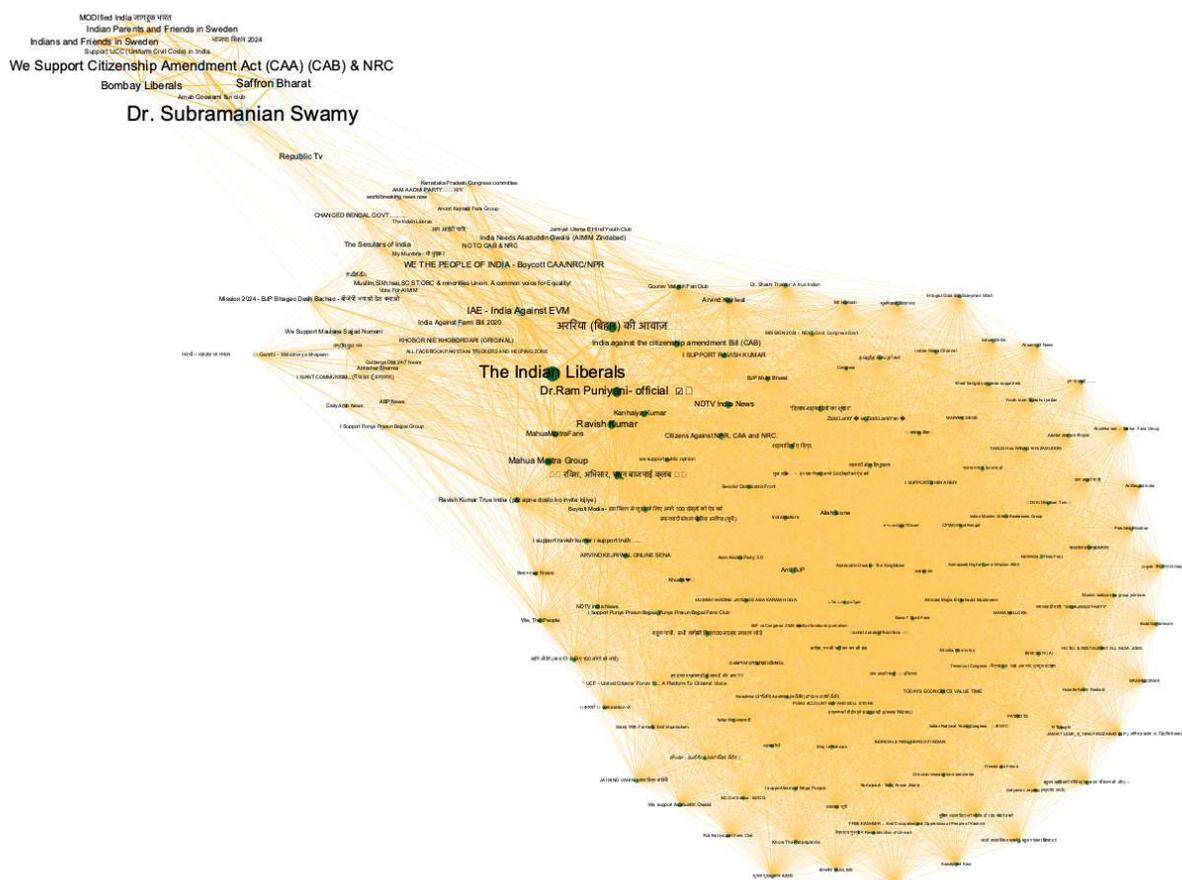


Figure 2. Network of Highly Active and Connected Public Facebook Groups During the “Tablighi Jamaat Controversy.”

Another interesting finding from this network is the presence of groups related to the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) (Government of India, 2019). CAA was the act passed in the Indian parliament on December 11, 2019, which aimed to provide citizenship to the persecuted minorities such as Hindus, Christians, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, and Sikhs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. This act does not include Muslims, and this created a huge uproar not only in Indian society but globally as an anti-Muslim law (Regan et al., 2019; BBC News, 2019; Gringlas, 2019). Soon afterward, India and several cities of the world witnessed massive protests against this Act (The Wire, 2019; The Hindu, 2019; Scroll, 2019). This event polarized the country with liberals and secular people protesting against this Act, while the supporters of BJP favored this Act. This polarization was visible on various social media platforms. The time gap between this event and TJC was significantly less and because of this we found that several of the Facebook public groups (both supporters and opposers) of this Act were also actively participating when TJC occurred. Groups such as “We Support Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) (CAB) & NRC” started spreading Tablighi Jamaat-related anti-Muslim hate. Meanwhile groups such as “Boycott CAA/NRC/NPR” and “Citizens Against NPR, CAA and NRC” that rejected the idea of prosecuting one community during the CAA protest posted against targeting Muslims for the spread of Coronavirus.

Finding 2: Anti-Muslim groups were three times more active in spreading hate than anti-hate groups. The 11 anti-Muslim Facebook groups shared links every 4662.5 seconds. In contrast, 11 anti-hate Facebook groups shared links every 13127.5 seconds.

After finding the anti-Muslim and anti-hate groups² mentioned earlier, we collected all the Tablighi Jamaat-related Facebook posts by these groups during the four months' period. There were 2068 posts by 11 anti-Muslim groups, while 11 anti-hate groups posted 2801 posts. We utilized the CoorNet package to determine the rapid link-sharing behavior of these groups. Rapid link-sharing means sharing of links by the Facebook groups in an "unusually short period" of time, which CoorNet defines as the 'coordination interval' (Kharazian, 2020). The coordination interval for anti-Muslim groups was 4662.5 seconds, while anti-hate groups took 13127.5 seconds to share the links to counter the hate. Figure 3 shows the coordination-interval distributions for both groups. These indicate that anti-Muslim groups were approximately three times faster in spreading hate than the other group was for countering it.

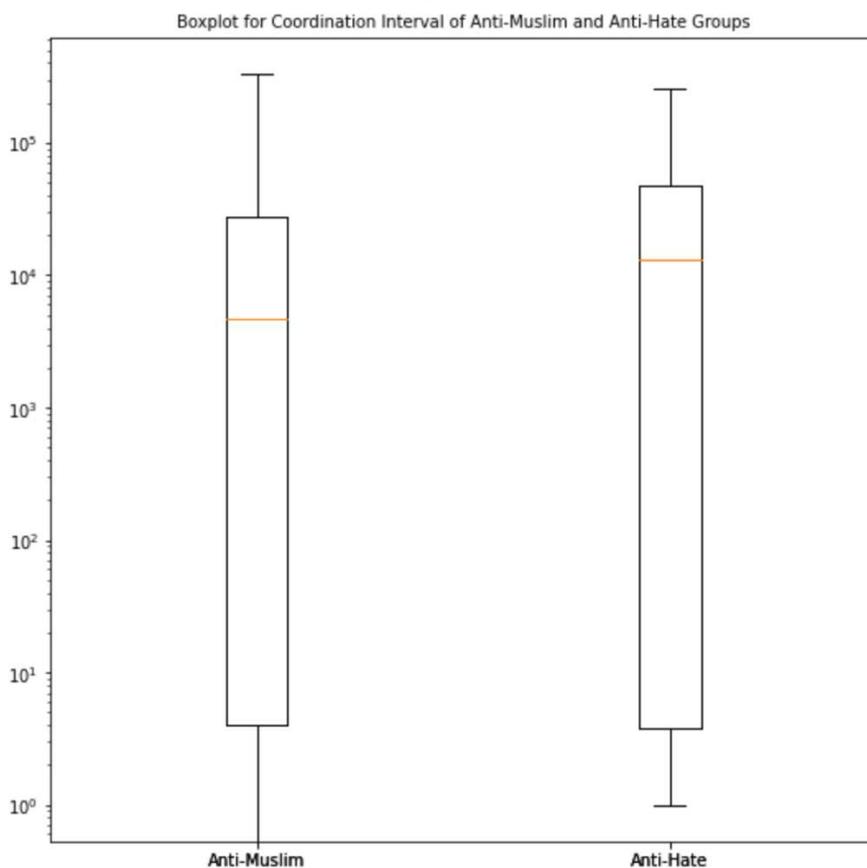


Figure 3. Coordination Intervals of Anti-Muslim (Left) and Anti-Hate (Right) Groups

To examine the core network structure of the two groups, we created a network for each group with k-core decomposition. the network structure of anti-Muslim groups is shown in Figure 4; the left side for the complete network and the right for the core-19 nodes. Compared to anti-hate groups, the anti-Muslim network has a higher density of 0.659. Some of the groups that we identified in our first finding are also present in the core-19 nodes as they are highly connected groups. Appendix A provides account names, coordinated shares, number of subscribers, and degree of the 19 anti-Muslim groups.

² Though there were 157 anti-hate groups, to have uniformity for the sake of comparison, we selected only 11 groups based on the highest number of shares.

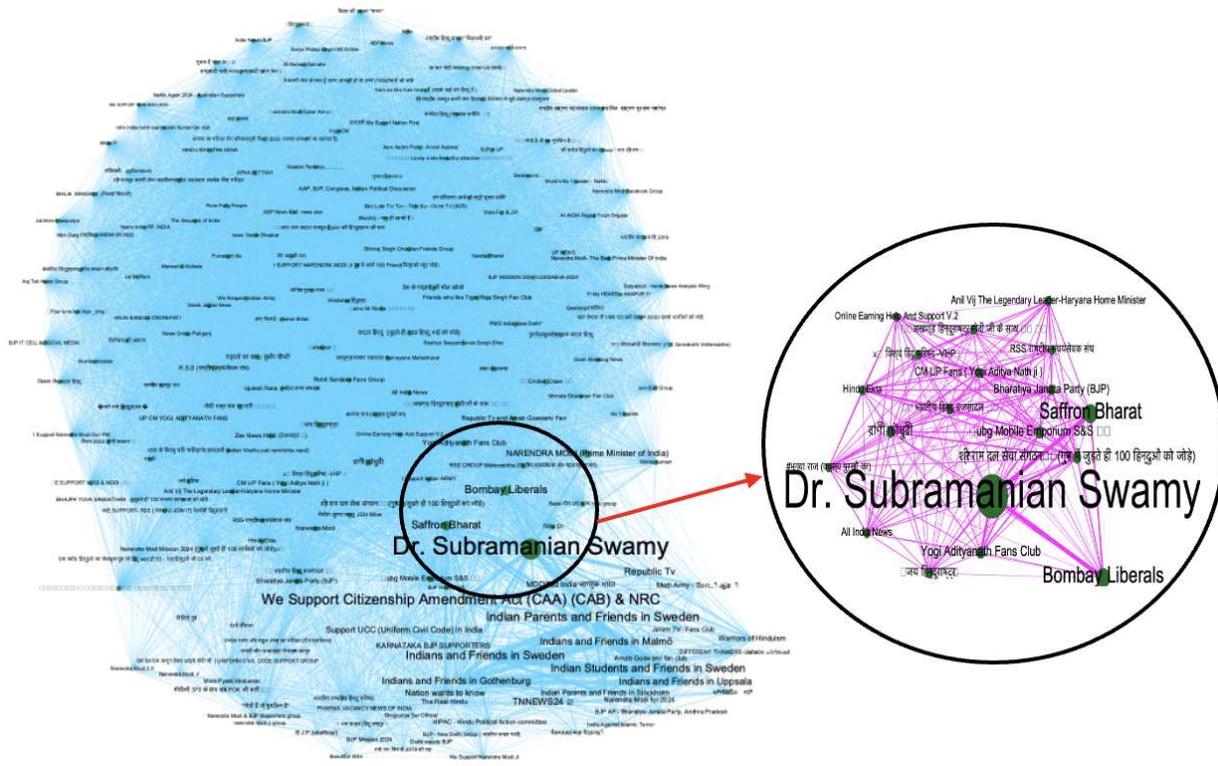


Figure 4. Network of Anti-Muslim Public Facebook Groups during the “Tablighi Jamaat Controversy.”

In addition, Figure 5 demonstrates the complete network of the anti-hate group on the left side and its core part on the right side. Compared to anti-Muslim groups, the anti-hate group has lower network density of 0.432. The core includes 19 highly connected nodes. Most of these nodes are the same groups that we discovered in the initial search. Appendix B provides public account names, coordinated shares, number of subscribers, and degree of these 19 anti-hate actors. Table 2 shows network features for both anti-Muslim and anti-hate groups.

Table 2. Network features of Anti-Muslim and Anti-Hate groups. The second row corresponds to parameters for k-core decomposition.

Measures	Anti-Muslim		Anti-Hate	
	@ Degree > 100	@ Degree > 250	@ Degree > 100	@ Degree > 900
Nodes	200	19	973	19
Edges	13108	171	206888	171
Network Density	0.659	1	0.438	1
Avg. Degree	131.08	18	425.25	18
Avg. Weighted Degree	153.01	40.84	464.66	129.68
Modularity	0.215	0.099	0.219	0.036

Note: The network feature of anti-Muslim @ Degree > 250 and anti-hate @ Degree > 900 are the same except for the Avg. weighted degree and modularity.

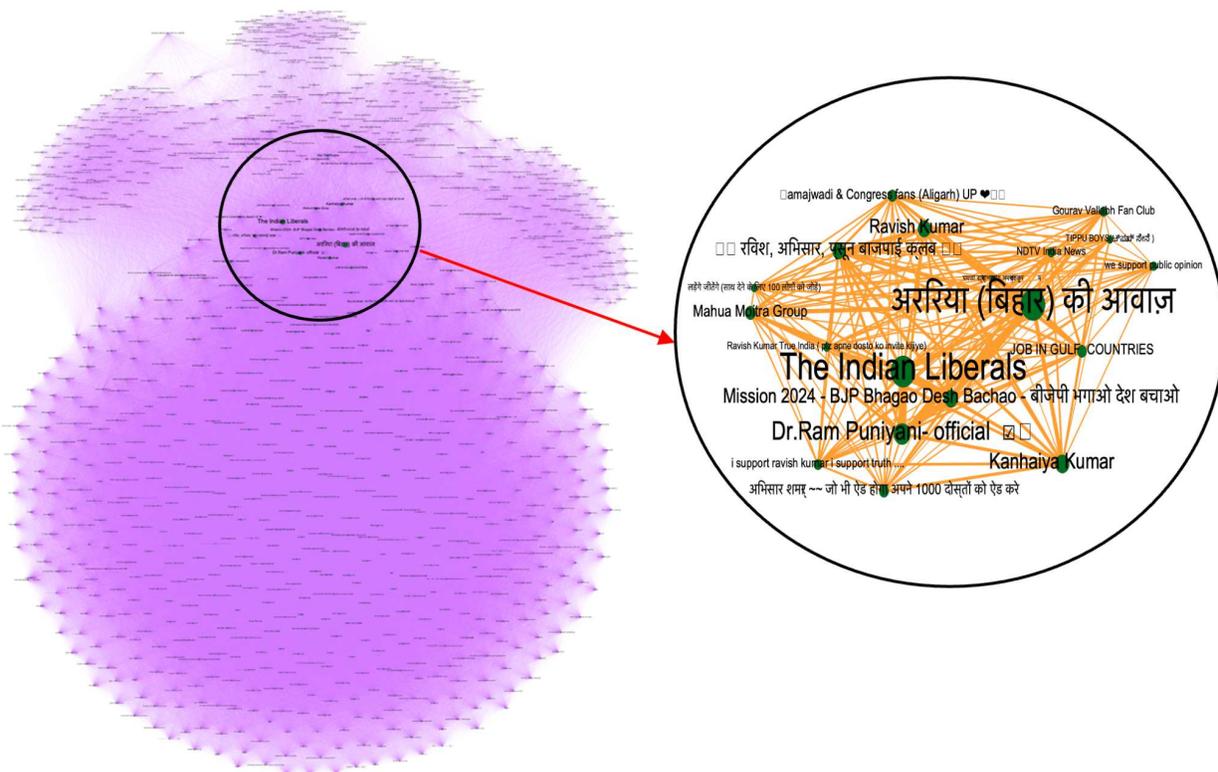


Figure 5. Network of Anti-hate Public Facebook Groups during the “Tablighi Jamaat Controversy.”

Finding 3: Anti-Muslim Facebook groups spread misinformation, while anti-hate posters only shared authentic and verified news.

To understand the kinds of posts these groups were sharing, we analyzed the top 20 most shared posts by each of these two groups. For anti-Muslims, there were 11 unique links shared by 20 unique users. The top-ranked news was shared 2429 times by the Svn Times account handle. This report talks about the conspiracy by Tablighi Jamaat members and a famous Muslim leader to kill 100,000 Hindus via the coronavirus. When checked for verification, we found no website for this channel, and we could not verify this news as the page was not found. Out of the 11 unique news, only three were based on authentic news reports; the rest were fake news, misinformation, or news that cannot be verified because no source is available (page not found). Some links originated from sources that are notorious for their anti-Muslim views. Also, out of 20 users, all accounts except four can be identified as supporters of BJP or its leaders. On the other hand, out of the top 20 shared posts by anti-hate groups, 12 posts are with title, 5 had no title, 1 was re-shared written as a title and two reports were presented twice. There were 15 unique accounts; out of those, eight were credible national-level news sources such as Outlook India, The Wire, Quint, The Lallantop, NewsLaundry, and National Herald. We could verify all 18 posts (as two were repeated). More details are available in Appendices C and D about anti-Muslim and anti-hate groups, respectively.

This finding shows that anti-Muslim Facebook groups were using inauthentic sources, have a history of fake news, are involved in pro-BJP and anti-Muslim propaganda. In contrast, anti-hate Facebook groups used authentic sources to counter the hateful fake news or misinformation spread by anti-Muslim groups.

Methods

Datasets

First, we searched using the keyword “Tablighi” and collected all Facebook posts between January 1, 2020, and November 22, 2021, using the CrowdTangle historical data feature (CrowdTangle, 2022). CrowdTangle is a public insight tool owned and operated by Facebook and covers public pages, public groups, and verified profiles on Facebook and Instagram. Our search resulted in 17,448 posts. We calculated the frequency distribution of the posts and found that 84% of the activity happened between March 26, 2020, and August 22, 2020. As seen in Figure 6, we had chosen this specific period based on the observation that March 26 was the first day when posts related to the controversy (TJC) reached more than 100/day and August 22 was the last day when posts numbered more than 100/day. We filtered 14,656 posts, and as shown in Table 3, 96.74% of the posts came from India.

Table 3. County-wise Post Distribution

Country	Distribution of Posts (%)
India	96.74
United States	1.16
Pakistan	1.08
Bangladesh	0.51
Great Britain	0.51

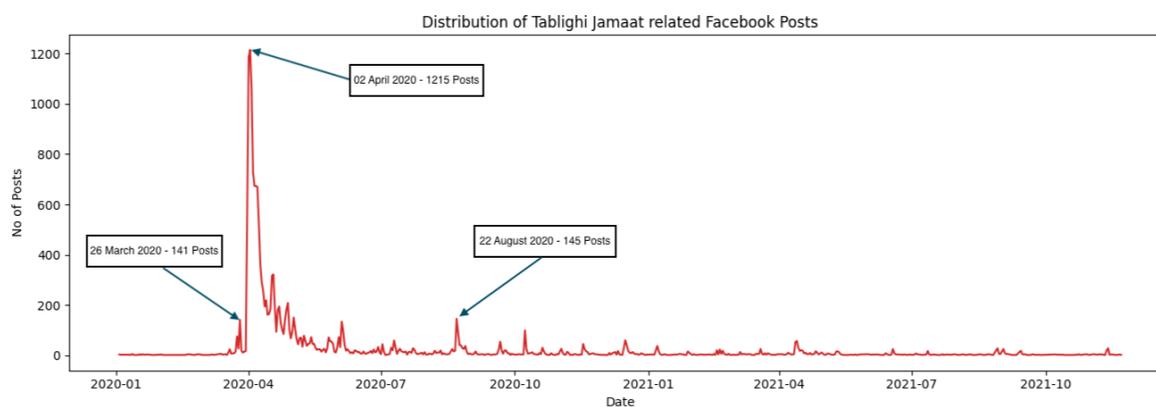


Figure 6. Distribution of Tablighi Jamaat-related Facebook Posts

Then, we identified the highly connected coordinated entities (groups) that repeatedly share (at least once) the same URLs within the coordination interval using the CoorNet package. This produced 1731 entities, which we further filtered by deleting all the vertices with a degree less than 100. This left us with only 168 most-connected Facebook groups. Out of these 168 entities, we identified 11 that were anti-Muslim and 157 that were anti-hate groups. Out of the 157 anti-hate groups, we again filtered down to the 11 biggest groups in terms of coordinated shares.

We used our first findings to collect data to determine the coordination interval for understanding their link-sharing behavior. To do this, we collected all the posts by these 22 groups within the same period, again using the CrowdTangle historical data feature. We collected 2068 and 2801 entries from anti-Muslim and anti-hate groups, respectively.

Analysis

The first step in our analysis was to find ‘highly connected coordinated entities’ in the overall collected data of 14,656 posts. CoorNet’s ‘get_urls_from_ct_histdata’ function collected all the URLs present in this dataset, and it produced 7448 URLs. Next, the ‘get_ctshares’ function of the CoorNet package collected all the posts that linked or mentioned these 7448 URLs by querying the CrowdTangle API. Lastly, the ‘get_output’ function provided us with a list of ‘highly connected coordinated entities’ that shared the URLs in a coordinated way (CoorNet, 2020). This resulted in 1731 highly connected coordinated entities. Table 4 shows the top 10 of these entities (account names) along with the number of coordinated shares, the average subscriber count and the degree. Out of these 1731 entities, we filtered entities with degrees greater than 100, which resulted in 168 entities, and created the network shown in Figure 2.

Table 4. Top 10 ‘Highly Connected Coordinated Entities’

Account Name	Account Avg. Subscriber Count	Coordinated Shares	Degree
Republic	3080341	166	4
Dr. Subramanian Swamy	87816	92	349
The Indian Liberals	56202	66	491
We Support Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) (CAB) & NRC	16329	55	234
India Today	11621518	47	21
Saffron Bharat	41000	43	242
Dr. Ram Puniyani-official <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	31444	38	333
Bombay Liberals	171268	36	174
अररिया (बिहार) की आवाज़	175746	34	355
SAEED ANWER	326634	33	1

For the next step, to examine link-sharing behavior, we again collected data from the CrowdTangle historical feature, but this time we collected ‘Tablighi’-related posts shared by 22 entities (the 11 anti-Muslim and 11 anti-hate groups that we discovered earlier). We collected a total of 4869 posts (2068 anti-Muslim posts and 2801 anti-hate posts). Then, we repeated the step mentioned in the previous paragraph once again on this data to find link-sharing behavior by calculating coordination intervals.

We visualized all the networks using Gephi software with the ForceAtlas 2, Noverlap, and Label Adjust algorithms. As the anti-hate network was big when we kept the degree greater than 100, it produced a network with 973 nodes and 206888 edges (Figure 5 left side). Next, to find out the core from this network, we used k-core decomposition. At k greater than 900, we produced a network with 19 nodes and 171 edges (Figure 5 right side). Appendix A provides details of these 19 highly connected anti-hate nodes (entities). The anti-Muslim network was comparatively small, so at degree greater than 100 we produced a network with 200 nodes and 13108 edges (Figure 4 left side). At degree greater than 250, we produced a smaller network of core groups that included 19 nodes and 171 edges (Figure 4 right side). We ranked the size of nodes based on ‘coordinated shares’ parameter and edges by weight.

To check misinformation, we first found the top 20 shared posts for each of the two groups using the CoorNet package, and then manually verified each of the posts. The comment columns of Appendices

C and D show the description of the verifiability of these posts. Posts that have 'Fake news' comments are all identified by Google Fact Check Tools³. Other observations such as whether the source is verifiable or not, authentic or not are duly listed in the comments.

Limitations

We collected data for our analysis through Facebook's metrics platform CrowdTangle, which covers public pages, public groups, and verified profiles on the platform only. Though entirely appropriate as it protects the privacy of Facebook users, because of this limitation, we were unable to trace the further dissemination of Tablighi Jamaat-related Islamophobic hate through closed groups, private or semi-private personal profiles (for example, profiles whose posts are available only to friends or friends of friends), or direct messaging; our analysis is limited to the full public spaces on the wider Facebook platform.

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Competing interests

No competing interest.

Ethics

All the data is collected from Public Facebook Groups or Pages made available by Facebook's CrowdTangle platform hence comply with the privacy policy of the Facebook.

Appendix A: Information about 19 anti-Muslim Entities

Table 1 presents account names, coordinated shares, average subscriber count, and degree of anti-Muslim groups with degree greater than 250. This table is organized in descending order of degree.

Table 1. 19 highly connected (high degree) core accounts from anti-Muslim groups

Account Name	Coordinated Shares	Account Avg. Subscriber Count	Degree
Dr. Subramanian Swamy	106	87607	449
Pubg Mobile Emporium S&S 🇮🇳	11	87015	374
Saffron Bharat	32	40885	344
राणी (छोखूरी)	10	62238	325
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	8	119908	312
श्री राम दल सेवा संगठन 🙏 (ग्रुप में जुड़ते ही 100 हिन्दुओं को जोड़े)	11	30909	307
CM UP Fans (Yogi Aditya Nath ji)	6	83257	294
▶▶ भारतीय हिन्दू बजरंगदल ▶▶	5	31438	287
✕ विश्व हिंदू परिषद -VHP 🙏	4	67857	278
Hindu Ekta	5	219069	275
Bombay Liberals	33	170968	265
▶▶ अखण्ड हिन्दू राष्ट्र, मोदी जी के साथ ▶▶ 🙏	5	20652	264
🙏 जय हिन्दू राष्ट्र 🙏	7	36325	258
Yogi Adityanath Fans Club	12	101865	257
Anil Vij The Legendary Leader-Haryana Home Minister	5	122974	257
RSS राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ	4	68286	255
#भगवा राज (वर्चस्व पुरखों का)	3	31545	250
All India News	5	125926	250
Online Earning Help And Support V.2	3	184809	250

Appendix B: Information about 19 anti-hate Entities

Table 2 presents account names, coordinated shares, average subscriber count, and degree of anti-hate groups with degree greater than 900. This table is organized in descending order of degree.

Table 2. 19 highly connected (high degree) core accounts from anti-hate groups

Account Name	Coordinated Shares	Account Avg. Subscriber Count	Degree
The Indian Liberals	112	55989	1314
अररिया (बिहार) की आवाज़	112	175423	1293
Mission 2024 - BJP Bhagao Desh Bachao - बीजेपी भगाओ देश बचाओ	53	109074	1208

Dr.Ram Puniyani- official ✓	71	31532	1161
🇮🇳 रविश, अभिसार, प्रसून बाजपाई क्लब 🇮🇳	48	141472	1141
Kanhaiya Kumar ✓	58	291991	1138
Ravish Kumar ✓	50	242075	1130
Mahua Moitra Group	38	10732	1098
JOB IN GULF COUNTRIES	33	128220	1053
NDTV India News	21	152946	1050
लड़ेंगे जीतेंगे (साथ देने के लिए 100 लोगों को जोड़ें)	15	101705	1039
Gourav Vallabh Fan Club	23	71112	1015
Samajwadi & Congress fans (Aligarh) UP 🇮🇳🌹	30	180994	1002
i support ravish kumar i support truth	26	93790	996
Ravish Kumar True India (plz apne dosto ko invite kijiye)	18	116483	990
we support public opinion	20	124928	966
अभिसार शर्मा ~ जो भी ऐड होगा अपने 1000 दोस्तों को ऐड करे	34	101208	949
TIPPU BOYS(ಟಿಪ್ಪು ಸೇನೆ)	14	33683	927
মমতা বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় সমর্থকবৃন্দ	8	120966	904

Appendix C: Top 20 Shared Facebook Posts by anti-Muslim Groups

Table 3 presents the verification comments by the authors of this research article, title of the posts, account name and engagement. The posts are organized in descending order of engagement.

Table 3. Top 20 Shared Facebook Post based on Engagement by anti-Muslim Groups

Comment	Title	Account Name	Engagement
No information about who said it, what is the source? The website which reported it (source) is not existing. Can't be verified. This report was shared more than 2400 times and garnered several hateful comments.	जाकिर नाइक से मिलकर Coronavirus से 1 लाख हिंदुओं को मारने कीसाजिश रची थी Tablighi Jamaat ने.. कद्दावर मुस्लिम नेता	Svn Times	2577
Not Fake/dis/misinformation. This post is based on a personal opinion of a person who had made several controversial claims against Muslims. He converted to Hinduism from Islam recently (Dec, 2021) https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/who-is-wasim-rizvi-7231868/	आतंकी संगठनों के लिए फिदायीन तैयार करता है तबलीगी जमात, लगेप्रतिबंध: शिया वक्फ बोर्ड	🇮🇳 मोदी ,योगी & आरएसएस (RSS) समर्थक 🇮🇳	2501
Fake News. BOOM Fact Check rated it as False. It was an old video from Karachi, Pakistan. https://www.boomlive.in/fake-news/false-video-shows-tablighi-jamaat-member-running-naked-in-an-isolation-ward-7596	Tablighi Jamaat members who misbehaved with doctors, nurses jailed	Dr. Subramanian Swamy	1884
No Fake/dis/misinformation. This is the issue of visa rule violation by Tablighi Jamaat members.	All Tablighi foreign preachers violated VISA norms to land	Dr. Swamy Fans	1816

But this news was sensationalized and used by anti-Muslim groups to spread hate as it garnered several hateful comments against Muslim.	in India. All claimed as tourists and Govt decided to blacklist all such foreign preachers - PGurus		
Fake News. BBC Hindi Fact check team rated it as False. The claim of this report is based on a old video clip from Mumbai which was cut short and presented as a video related to Tablighi Jamaat member. https://www.bbc.com/hindi/india-52148620	जब अस्पताल भेजा जा रहा था तो सड़क पर थूक थूक कर वायरस फैला रहे थे जमाती, विडियो वायरल - द छीछालेदर	PMO India New Delhi*	1799
No Fake News. Indian government was doing religious profiling of Muslim which was criticized by WHO also. This report is part of that profiling.	केंद्र सरकार ने कहा - यदि तबलीगी जमात की घटना न होती तो कोरोना के फैलने की दर बहुत कम होती - Live India	मोदीजी 370 के बाद अब POK की बारी 	1573
No Fake News. Indian government was doing religious profiling of Muslim which was criticized by WHO also. This report is part of that profiling.	केंद्र सरकार ने कहा - यदि तबलीगी जमात की घटना न होती तो कोरोना के फैलने की दर बहुत कम होती - Live India	we support BJP india	1298
Not Fake/dis/misinformation. This post is based on a personal opinion of a person who had made several controversial claims against Muslims. He converted to Hinduism from Islam recently (Dec, 2021) https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/who-is-wasim-rizvi-7231868/	आतंकी संगठनों के लिए फिदायीन तैयार करता है तबलीगी जमात, लगे प्रतिबंध: शिया वक्फ बोर्ड	CM UP Fans (Yogi Aditya Nath ji)	1037
Cannot be verified. However, similar report was already rated as false by fact checkers. https://www.altnews.in/media-misreport-tablighi-jamat-defecating-in-open-after-being-refused-non-veg-food/	Tablighi Jamaat inmates demand buffalo biryani at Agra quarantine centre	Dr. Subramanian Swamy	1029
No Fake News. Indian government was doing religious profiling of Muslim which was criticized by WHO also. This report is part of that profiling.	केंद्र सरकार ने कहा - यदि तबलीगी जमात की घटना न होती तो कोरोना के फैलने की दर बहुत कम होती - Live India	Maithili Thakur	967
No Fake News. Indian government was doing religious profiling of Muslim which was criticized by WHO also. This report is part of that profiling.	केंद्र सरकार ने कहा - यदि तबलीगी जमात की घटना न होती तो कोरोना के फैलने की दर बहुत कम होती - Live India	Mera Pyara Hindustan	951
Disinformation. This incident happened but the complain do not mention anywhere that the perpetrator was Tablighi Jamaat member. https://twitter.com/ANI/status/1250267083083	Delhi: Tablighi Jamaat menace continues; female doctor at LNJP hospital harassed	Dr. Subramanian Swamy	909

[927559/photo/1](#)

True News. Authentic Source	Government bans issuing tourist visa to foreign Tablighi activists	Dr. Subramanian Swamy	880
Fake News. BBC Hindi Fact check team rated it as False. The claim of this report is based on a old video clip from Mumbai which was cut short and presented as a video related to Tablighi Jamaat member. https://www.bbc.com/hindi/india-52148620	जब अस्पताल भेजा जा रहा था तो सड़क पर थूक थूक कर वायरस फैला रहे थे जमाती, विडियो वायरल - द छीछालेदर	कट्टर हिन्दू (जुड़ते ही 100 हिन्दू भाई को जोड़े)	867
True News. Authentic Source	Covid-19: AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam sent to 14-day judicial custody for communal comment	Dr. Subramanian Swamy	859
No Fake News. Indian government was doing religious profiling of Muslim which was criticized by WHO also. This report is part of that profiling.	केंद्र सरकार ने कहा - यदि तबलीगी जमात की घटना न होती तो कोरोना के फैलने की दर बहुत कम होती - Live India	Once Again MODIRAJ 2024	740
An opinion piece which target anti-hate people (people who were raising voice against witch hunt of Muslims), by calling them Hindu phobic.	Meet the 'intellectual-activists' who want to stop 'witch-hunt' against Tablighi Jamaat HinduPost	Dr. Subramanian Swamy	704
Fake News. BBC Hindi Fact check team rated it as False. The claim of this report is based on a old video clip from Mumbai which was cut short and presented as a video related to Tablighi Jamaat member. https://www.bbc.com/hindi/india-52148620	जब अस्पताल भेजा जा रहा था तो सड़क पर थूक थूक कर वायरस फैला रहे थे जमाती, विडियो वायरल - द छीछालेदर	Nisha Kumari	654
Not Fake/dis/misinformation. This post is based on a personal opinion of a person who had made several controversial claims against Muslims. He converted to Hinduism from Islam recently (Dec, 2021) https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/who-is-wasim-rizvi-7231868/	आतंकी संगठनों के लिए फिदायीन तैयार करता है तबलीगी जमात, लगेप्रतिबंध: शिया वक्फ बोर्ड	मोदी, योगी & आरएसएस (RSS) समर्थक	622
No Fake/dis/misinformation. This is the issue of visa rule violation by Tablighi Jamaat members. But this news was sensationalized and used by anti-Muslim groups to spread hate as it garnered several hateful comments against Muslim.	All Tablighi foreign preachers violated VISA norms to land in India. All claimed as tourists and Govt decided to blacklist all such foreign preachers - PGurus	SwamyFans	596

Appendix D: Top 20 Shared Facebook Posts by anti-hate Groups

Table 4 presents the verification comments by the authors of this research article, titles of the posts, account names and engagement. The posts are organized in descending order of engagement.

Table 4. Top 20 Shared Facebook Post based on Engagement by anti-Muslim Groups

Comment	Title	Account Name	Engagement
	Hundreds Of Recovered Tablighi Jamaat Members Donate Blood Plasma For COVID-19 Patients	Outlookindia	17175
	Recovered Tablighi Jamaat Members Donate Blood Plasma for COVID-19 Patients	TheWire.in	11339
	NA	iPlus TV	9208
	NA	The Quint	8306
	'First Muslims, Now Sikhs': Nanded Pilgrims Face Vilification	The Quint	7167
	Food, milk, sanitary pads: Jamaat-e-Islami Hind turns saviour for migrants passing through Bhopal	मौलाना साद साहब के चाहने वाले Markaz Nizamuddin	4535
	NA	WebQoof	4523
	Indians who made Covid 'Muslim virus' after Tablighi Jamaat are cheering Odisha's Rath Yatra	ThePrint	4396
All posts are authentic and sources can be verified	पड़ताल: क्या बरेली में निज़ामुद्दीन के जमातियों को पकड़ने गई पुलिस पर ढाई सौ लोगों ने हमला किया?	The Lallantop	3771
	कोरोना वायरस के खिलाफ लड़ाई में आगे आया निज़ामुद्दीन मरकज, 200 जमाती देंगे प्लाज़्मा	बेबाक़ आवाज़ (A)	3746
	Two Tablighi Jamaat Members Die at Quarantine Facility, Minorities Panel Seeks Probe	TheWire.in	3735
	NA	iPlus TV	3593
	NA	iPlus TV	3593
	This is a re-share of a post	India Against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) & NRC	3526
	Hundreds Of Recovered Tablighi Jamaat Members Donate Blood Plasma For COVID-19 Patients	Beef Janata Party	2636
	Man lynched in Delhi on suspicion of conspiracy to spread COVID-19	Beef Janata Party	2592
	'Journalism as genocide, bigotry as big business': backlash on India Today TV's 'investigation' on Madrasas	National Herald	2574
	Firozabad police refute Zee News claim that medical staff escorting Tablighi Jamaat men was pelted with stones	Newslandry	2565

Saharanpur Police says no truth in Tablighi Jamaat people demanding non-veg food in quarantine, terms it fake news	Janta Ka Reporter	2524
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Indians who made Covid 'Muslim virus' after Tablighi Jamaat are cheering Odisha's Rath Yatra	India UnPlugged	2469
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