

*Brief:*  
*14 Hindu temples Vandalised in Bangladesh*



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1. In a series of orchestrated attacks overnight on February 05, 2023, at least 14 Hindu temples in Bangladesh's Thakurgaon district, Baliadangi Upazila were vandalised.
2. District General Secretary Prabir Kumar Gupta said, "Miscreants vandalised 14 Hindu goddess idols in a temple in the Sahbajpur Nathpara area of Charol union, four Hindu goddess idols in the Collegepara area of Paria union, and nine Hindu goddess idols in the Sindurpindi area of the Dhantala union. The majority of the idols are from roadside temples".
3. Thakurgaon Superintendent of Police Mohammad Jahangir Hossain said, Police are investigating to identify those involved in the incident. He continued, saying that the incident appears to be a case of an orchestrated attack to disrupt the nation's tranquilly.

4. Deputy commissioner or administrative chief of Thakurgaon, Mahbubur Rahman said, “This (attack) is the manifestation of a conspiracy against peace and communal harmony...this is a serious crime and the perpetrators will face the music”<sup>1</sup>
5. Union Parishad chairman and Hindu community leader Samar Chattarjee said “the region was always known for its good interfaith harmony as no such heinous incident took place here in the past”. He added, “The (majority) Muslim community does not have any dispute with us (Hindus)... we just cannot understand who could be these culprits”.
6. General Secretary of the district puja celebration parishad, Tapan Kumar Ghosh said he visited the Haribasur temple in the Sindurpindi area at around 4:00 pm on November 05, 2023, he flagged up that all the idols in the temple have been vandalised. He said, "This is very sad and appalling. We want a fair investigation into this incident."<sup>2</sup>
7. General Secretary of the upazila puja celebration parishad Vidyanath Burman said, “The miscreants have broken the arms, legs and heads of the idols. Some idols were broken and thrown into the pond. We want the administration to investigate the incident properly and arrest the culprits.”<sup>3</sup>
8. Chairman of Baliadangi upazila parishad, Md Ali Aslam Jewel said, “The idols of the temples which were vandalised were thrown unsafely on the side of the road.”
9. Resident of Sindurpindi area, Kashinath Singh said, "We are in a state of panic. Those involved in this incident should be arrested quickly."



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/14-hindu-temples-vandalised-in-bangladesh-559042>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.timesnownews.com/world/conspiracy-against-peace-14-hindu-temples-vandalised-in-bangladesh-article-97632288/amp>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/at-least-14-hindu-temples-vandalised-in-bangladesh20230205230703/>

10. The attack on temples in Bangladesh comes amid similar instances from Australia and Canada. The Hindu community has been distressed after frequent attacks on the temples.
11. The 2022 report by Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mahajot on atrocities against minorities revealed the dreadful condition of religious minorities in Bangladesh. The report lists
  - 154 Hindu murders and 424 murder attempts by Islamic miscreants.
  - 27 Hindu women were gang raped, 39 Hindu girls were raped, 17 Hindu women were slain by Islamists after being raped, and 55 other women were molested and attempted to Rape.
  - 128 Hindu temples were set ablaze and vandalised by the Islamists.
  - 481 idols of Hindu gods and goddesses were vandalised by miscreants.
  - 72 Hindu god idols were stolen from various temples in the same period.
  - 40 persons were forced to convert to Islam and 127 Hindu persons were abducted by miscreants in 2022.
  - 333 Hindu people were forced to eat Beef.
  - Beef was thrown to 179 religious institutions.
  - Islamists obstructed Hindu festival celebrations 129 times.
  - 519 Hindu houses were set ablaze.
  - 891 Hindu families were attacked.
  - Islamists took 8,990 acres of land from Hindu people, 6,550 acres of which belonged to the hill tribes of the Santal and Tripuri.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://organiser.org/2023/02/02/106900/world/asia/south-asia/persecution-of-hindus-in-bangladesh-66-women-raped-154-killed-and-333-forced-to-eat-beef-in-2022/>