

CONVERSION CARTELS, Silent War on Bharat's Soul

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Report: Conversion Cartels, Silent War on Bharat's Soul

Executive Summary

India's dharmic landscape is witnessing significant alteration with patterns emerging that raise concerns about national security, social cohesion and sovereignty.

These patterns include proliferation of churches, legal actions related to religious conversions, children rescued from missionary organizations and increased scrutiny of missionary bodies under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

Proliferation of Churches:

- India is home to over **28,000 churches of different denominations**, serving approximately **28 million Christians** who constitute about **2.3 per cent** of the nation's population.
- Catholic Church stands as **second-largest landowner** in India after the government with extensive property holdings across **174 dioceses**.

Religious Conversions & Legal Actions:

- In **September 2024**, **Supreme Court of India** deliberated on cases concerning mass religious conversions, highlighting the government's stance against forced conversions and deemed these conversions as "dangerous" and a threat to national security.
- In **January 2025**, a Christian evangelist couple was convicted under Uttar Pradesh's anti-conversion law for mass conversion of Dalit community members marking the first such conviction under this legislation.

Civilisational Dilution:

Evangelical missions in India are not only religious work but a deliberated civilizational intervention. Their agenda goes beyond conversion to remaking native identities, demystifying Sanatana Dharma, and imposing a homogenized Western moral framework.

Child Rights Violations by Missionary Organizations:

- In **July 2018**, authorities rescued three children from a shelter home in Ranchi, Jharkhand, operated by the **Missionaries of Charity**, following allegations of child trafficking and sale of babies.
- Since **2005**, **Rescue Foundation** has liberated over **4,000 victims** of child trafficking in India, many from situations involving forced labour and exploitation.

Scrutiny of Missionary Bodies:

Amidst rising concerns about compliance with local legal requirements by the missionary bodies receiving foreign funds, regulatory surveillance has been intensified by the Indian government. Missionaries of Charity application for renewal of its Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration was rejected due to non-transparency and to bring in accountability to the flow and use of foreign funds. There are also reports of some organizations having used irregular or untransparent mechanisms to bypass regulatory compliances, prompting concerns regarding misuse.

- In **December 2023**, FCRA licence of **Church of North India**, an evangelical organization, was *revoked* due to FCRA rule violations.

These developments underscore a complex interplay between religious activities, violations of Indian laws and regulatory systems.

Conversion Cartels, Silent War on Bharat's Soul

Christian and Muslim religious conversions in India have been debated for decades. Conversations on conversions have centered around socio-economic issues, cultural currents and individual belief. Yet behind these conversions lies a more sinister tale of coercion, exploitation, lure and abuse.

India, the oldest extant civilization, has always been proudly pluralistic and spirituality being at center. Under the garb of social uplift and humanitarian services, an insidious **war on India's civilizational core** has broken out rather silently. And it is not waged with cannons or bombs, nor so much as gunfire or bullets, yet with dollars, doctrines and fake conversations.

Under the thin veil of philanthropy, a quite cultural and civilizational war is being waged in Bharat. The tools of this campaign are not traditional weapons, but a sophisticated array of foreign-funded NGOs. These groups, usually masquerading under the guise of development or humanitarian assistance, are now increasingly playing the role of vectors of ideological influence. Their aim is not the spread of religion in itself, but the slow destruction and substitution of a civilizational ethos built up over millennia of deep philosophical and cultural tradition.

Evangelism in modern-day India is not religion – it is **capture of identity** and **prolonged ideological domination**. It is, in true sense, a contemporary form of colonialism.

This analysis examines some of the history and recent rise in conversion cases that illustrate complexity and challenge of these issues, dissects reasons for escalation, and discusses social, systemic and legal responses.

Colonial Roots of Evangelism

Christian missionary movement went together with European colonial spread. As written in "Christian Missions and Colonial Empires Reconsidered" (Robert Eric Frykenberg, *The International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, 2000), missionaries were no neutral religious professionals. They were actors in the agenda of civilizational disrupt and commissioned to remake indigenous self-conceptions along European lines.

The religious colonial legacy in India is a long one and very controversial. When British crown forcefully occupied large swaths of land and assumed power in Bharat, it was preceded—or followed—by missionaries. Such men as **William Carey**, the linguistic genius so celebrated in West, employed his talents to translate Bible into Indian languages not for purposes of scholarly research but as a means **for large-scale conversions**. His task was not to educate but **to replace**:

- old spiritual systems with Western dogma;
- cultural and civilizational self-respect with guilt and
- ritual diversity with religious uniformity.

This was part of an expansive civilizational substitution plan. Evangelism operated as



Figure 1 Small Home Churches

psychological warfare, conditioning local peoples prior to and in the process of imperial expansion.

Though India achieved political independence in 1947, the **missionary-industrial complex** never vacated the premises. It merely transformed. Colonial missionary in

pith helmets has given way to **foreign-funded NGOs**, speaking the language of human rights, sustainability and social justice. But, the objective remains the same: **convert, consolidate, and control**.

As per Ministry of Home Affairs (FCRA Annual Report 2020–21), over ₹16,000 crore flowed into Indian NGOs as foreign contributions in one year alone. Significant chunk of this amount reached Christian groups including:

- **World Vision India:** One of the biggest users of foreign money with its operations spanning tens of districts having connections with evangelical World Vision International, USA, has been officially revoked of its FCRA registration. The Ministry of Home Affairs had temporarily suspended its FCRA license on the grounds of intentional non-compliance with regulatory requirements. In foreign donations alone during 2022, the organization received ₹170 crore (equivalent to about USD 21 million)¹.
- **Compassion International:** Suspended by Indian government in 2017 for evading FCRA regulations and channeling funds for conversion groups engaged in conversions in the name of child welfare (The Hindu, 2017). Its modus operandi is well known - offer aid to poor communities, then bring in Christian doctrine as means to "salvation"- material and spiritual.
- **Gospel for Asia, Christian Aid, Seventh Day Adventist organizations** and few US-based church groups with Indian branches work silently through partner NGOs.

These are not exceptional cases. This is a systemic pattern.

The pattern is repeated in tribal pockets throughout Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Northeastern states. Aid turns into a weapon not of improvement but of indoctrination. When food, medicine and education are given with a cross tagged on, it stops being charity. It turns into **coercion**.

¹ https://fcraonline.nic.in/home/PDF_Doc/fc_notice_11112024.pdf

Evangelism on Ground

In states like Nagaland and Mizoram, forceful evangelism has rewritten cultural and religious topography. **Population of Nagaland** today is more than **90 per cent Christian**, a demographic shift that occurred over decades, primarily due to missionary inroads. The conventional animist and tribal worldviews have been explicitly wiped out.

Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand have seen mass conversions orchestrated by **social service organizations funded from outside** the country. In these areas, tribal populations are cut off from their indigenous spiritual practices and indoctrinated to think that their gods are wicked, traditions regressive and their festivals are satanic. (IndiaFacts Research, 2022)

Aid as a Weapon: Economics of Conversion

Ingenuity of contemporary religious colonialism lies in its camouflage. Evangelical groups in India function under the cover of:

- Disaster Relief – where religion is the doorway into vulnerable communities.
- Educational Upliftment – where children are taught gospel alongside alphabets.
- Healthcare Access – where conversion is linked to care.

In economically disturbed communities, **assistance becomes coercive**. When an individual has to choose between starving and keeping their faith, it's not free will but sheer blackmail.

Larger Agenda: Civilizational Dilution

Evangelical missions in India need to be interpreted not just through religious freedom lens, but in a broader context of civilizational change. The engagement is not accidental or neutral, but a deliberate and well calculated attempt to reshape indigenous cultures and identities through persistent ideological and institutional pressure.

Deliberate evangelical initiatives in Bharat have, with time, taken the form of civilizational intervention. The aim goes beyond specific sets of beliefs; it seeks to reshape societal norms, delegitimise traditional cultural systems, and replace pluralistic traditions with a Westernised, homogenised moral order.

The process involves:

- Delegitimation of Sanatana Dharma as superstition.
- Abnormalisation of rituals and festivals as violent, patriarchal, or conservative.
- To enforce a homogenised identity, preferably a Western liberal Christian identity against India's traditional values.

These interventions reflect what prominent sociologists characterize as "cultural imperialism", a process wherein ideological impact is used to marginalise or erase indigenous narratives for dominant global patterns.

India, with its pluralistic and civilisationally vibrant culture, is not seen as a ground for religious campaigning but as a fertile terrain for moral and ideological conquest. Transnational religious networks and faith-based outlets tend to be vehicles for strategic-power projection – pursuing not only spirituality, but geo-cultural reach.

The blurring of philanthropy with preaching has resulted in:

- Deep cultural penetrations, especially in vulnerable and tribal areas.
- Shifts in narrative in academia and human rights discourse, frequently situating Indian traditions in reductionist and confrontational language.
- Exertion of institutional influence over domestic populations through foreign-funded agencies.

India's recent regulatory changes of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and enhancing of surveillance on foreign-funded NGOs - are an integral part of an imperative cultural defence mechanism.

No sovereign state can afford to overlook strategic use of religion as a tool of manipulation, more so when foreign funding is utilized to manipulate educational content, modify social conduct, or realign civil society with foreign value systems.

These are not single acts of ambiguous charity or religion; they are systematic endeavors that have enduring socio-political implications.

When foreign agencies are permitted unregulated funds to (i) impact with grassroots belief systems; (ii) engineer social narratives; (iii) redefine cultural norms; it represents a kind of contemporary ideological colonisation.

Evangelical NGOs Channel Funds

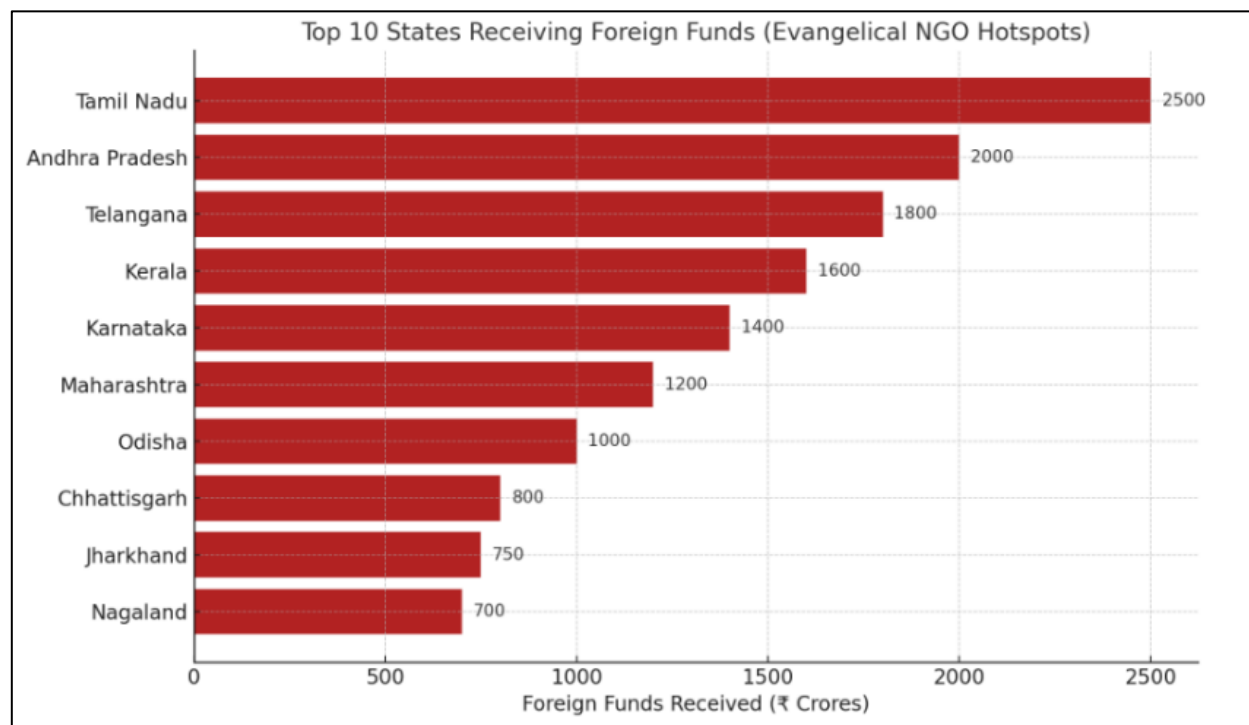


Figure 2Source: FCRA Annual Report 2020–21 (Estimates), Ministry of Home Affairs

This is not limited to the question of religious freedom. The problem here is pre-designed **systemic cultural erasure**. Ancient tribal traditions, faith and Sanatana Dharma are being erased in the name of "progress."

Demographic changes have been experienced across regions with old-time festivals, dress and habits on verge of extinction. The threat is not merely that of conversion, but **civilizational dilution**. Individuals and communities lose belief in practice of their faith, consciousness, memory, continuity, and identity as well.

What's going on in India is not unique. From Africa to Latin America to Southeast Asia, Western-funded evangelical organizations prey on vulnerable groups in the guise of service. As Joshua Project and other networks make it evident, it is part of a worldwide

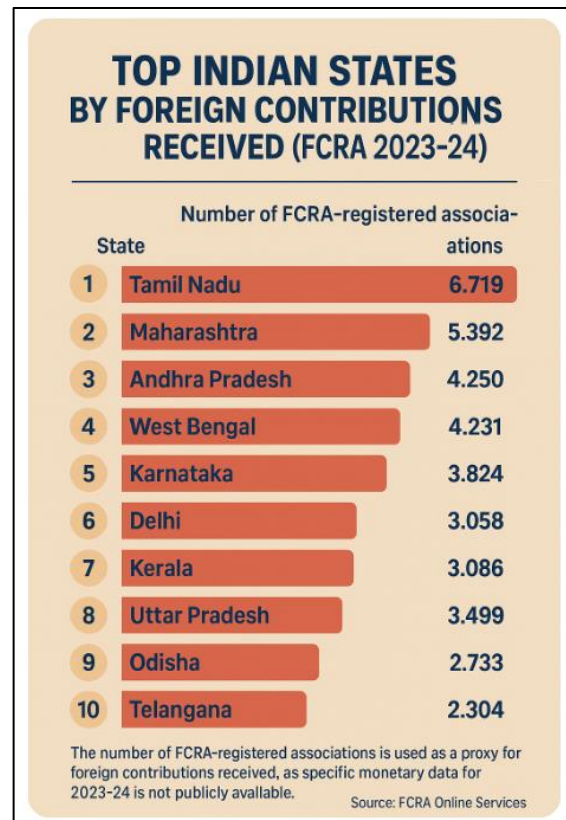
campaign to convert "unreached people groups" through humanitarian platforms as pipelines for missionaries.

India, being highly diversified and rich spiritually, it is one of the major targets. While India protects religious freedom within its Constitution, what it cannot and should not allow is the **systematic abuse of foreign funds to destroy its civilizational foundation**. Evangelical groups, supported by influential foreign powers, are bringing in **thousands of crores of rupees every year**, employing **NGO fronts and aid networks** to implement a stealthy but aggressive **religious reconquest** of India.

Exploitation on pretext of Miraculous Healing

A few cases have come to light wherein individuals seeking medical care were reportedly forced to convert to Christianity, mostly involving financial exploitation:

- Jalandhar Incident (April 2021): Shubham Pandit of Mumbai went to Pastor Balwinder Singh in Jalandhar, hoping for his sister's cure from cancer. Pastor Singh first asked for ₹1 lakh but accepted ₹80,000. The family was forced to remain there





for 12 days, during which they were administered "holy" oil and water and were allegedly compelled to accept Christianity. Unfortunately, Pandit's sister died, and the healing did not take place.

- Kaushambi Case (May 2024): Uttar Pradesh resident Virendra Kumar Divakar, who had cervical spondylitis, was lured by Shankarlal Chaurasia to a Jalandhar church under pretext of being taken for treatment. Divakar was forced to convert to Christianity and assured ₹1,000 per month and a one-time payment of ₹5 lakh to be repaid when he went home. After six months of no pay, Divakar approached Chaurasia, after which more abuse followed.
- Bajinder Singh, who is a self-proclaimed faith healer and head of The Church of Glory and Wisdom in Chandigarh, was arrested in July 2018 on suspicion of raping a woman from Zirakpur. The complainant said Singh enticed her to come abroad, sexually assaulted her several times and vowed to circulate compromising videos in case she made a police complaint. Singh was arrested at Delhi airport while trying to escape to London.

More allegations came to light in March 2025, when a 22-year-old woman alleged Singh for sexual exploitation when she was just a minor. She alleged that Singh would send lewd messages, hug her tightly during secret sessions and touch her inappropriately. Singh allegedly harassed, threatened her and her family despite her efforts to stay away.

Amongst most sensational cases that catapulted the issue of abuse within religious congregations to national headlines is that of Bishop Franco Mulakkal. In 2018, a nun from Missionaries of Jesus congregation alleged that Bishop Mulakkal, bishop of Jalandhar diocese, raped her on several occasions between 2014 and 2016 in Kerala. The case gained national attention and sparked widespread protests and debate over vulnerability of women in religious contexts and abuse of power by these evangelists. Bishop Mulakkal was arrested and tried afterwards, emphasizing the need for swift accountability and protection within religious organizations.

Self-proclaimed pastor Jashan Gill, accused of raping a 22-year-old student of the BCA and coercing her to undergo an abortion resulting in her death in 2023, surrendered before a Gurdaspur court in Punjab. Pastor Gill has been sent to five-day police remand. The father of the victim has alleged that Gill offered bribes to police officials to avoid arrest and threatened his life. He has gone to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, asking for a CBI investigation into the case.

Exploitation of Children Rights in Religious Contexts

Children have most frequently been the most susceptible to exploitation in the name of religious instruction and conversions. A number of incidents highlight this alarming trend:

- **Missionary Children's Home in Madhya Pradesh:**

In May 2023, a children's home in Madhya Pradesh's Katni district was reported to be coercing minors into attending Christian prayers and banning them from observing their native religious traditions. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) intervened, resulting in legal proceedings against

management for violating children's rights and carrying out coercive conversion practices.

- **Andhra Pradesh Conversion Racket:** During December 2017, an Andhra Pradesh couple was detained for allegedly seeking to convert children from tribes to Christianity using the ruse of giving them shelter and education. Christian prayers and literature were supposedly imparted to children against wishes of their parents which reflects exploitation of vulnerable populations through inducements and disinformation.

How the Agenda unfolds?

1. Target the Vulnerable: Deprived and ethnic communities, slum dwellers and disaster-hit areas are targeted specifically. Economic hardship is utilized as a pressure point to trigger conversions in these areas.

2. Aid with Conditions: Food, education, healthcare or even burial rights are provided but conditioned on church attendance or Christian conversion, a **kind of spiritual extortion**.

3. Create Dependency Networks: Over a period of time, the converted societies become culturally and socially alienated from their own heritage, festivities are discouraged, temples abandoned, indigenous practices labeled as 'satanic'.

Any move to challenge these activities is "oppression of minorities" or "violation of religious freedom," with **Western media, academia and institutions repeating the line**.

India was always a pluralism cradle where various faiths existed naturally. But what we are dealing with now is not pluralism but **planned religious subversion**, supported from outside and carried out through psychological warfare in the guise of charity.

India's most vulnerable communities—tribals, Dalits, and economically deprived—are being targeted systematically. In the name of "service" and humanitarian assistance, mass religious conversions are staged. This isn't social engineering; it's a **deliberate plan that threatens India's internal stability and national security**.

Let us take a close look at areas where foreign-funded conversions have taken place on a scale:

- **Nagaland & Northeast:**

- More than 90 per cent population of Nagaland is Christian today, primarily because of American Baptist missionary work that started in 19th century and continues in some form even today.
- After conversion, a **parallel identity** was created – Christian first, Indian second or never.
- Insurgent groups viz., **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM)** strongly advocate for "Greater Nagalim," and several of highest-ranking leaders were trained in theology and based themselves in **church-operated seminaries** overseas.
- In these regions, Indian festivals, emblems and even national anthem are considered foreign. Secession, not coexistence, is what is demanded.

- **Manipur's Hills vs Valley Conflict (2023):**

- Conflict had roots in ethnicity and was complicated by religious identity. The hills, predominant with converted Christian tribes, clashed violently with predominantly Sanatani Meiteis in the valley.
- Arms, foreign support networks and international propaganda ensued. Western evangelical media soon cast violence as "Christian persecution," without any reference to forced or coerced religious conversions that upset the region's balance.

- **Khalistani-Christian Nexus: Foreign Front**

- In UK, US, and Canada, a concerning coalition is taking shape between evangelical Christian lobbies and Khalistani separatists.
- Gurdwaras are being utilized by foreign evangelical groups abroad to promote "Dalit Sikh" conversions, further splitting the community.

- These organizations peddle narratives of "**Brahminical oppression**" and associate it with demands of "**freedom of religion**" and "**Khalistan.**"
- Major players in this nexus are foreign-funded NGOs, some churches and politically aligned diaspora communities who pressure Western governments against India with **fabricated human rights stories**.

This isn't faith. This isn't charity. **This is a well-funded psychological war** against Bharat's cultural heritage, fought in the language of love but waged with discipline of strategy for future.

Each time India tries to curb foreign conversions or audit NGO funds it's met with international criticism from evangelical lobby groups in Washington and Brussels.

Coercion and Inducements Leading to Conversions

Coercive conversion activities have been documented in different states including strategies of intimidation, financial incentives, and psychological coercion:

- Latest news (April 25, 2025) from Kota, Rajasthan, discloses a distressingly disturbing situation: a Christian missionary, John Matthew, has enticed 50 Bhil tribal community members into forsaking their ancestral Dharma by offering financial rewards and travel to foreign countries. As part of the "conversion" ritual, they were compelled to discard Hindu idols in the drain and put on the cross — a symbolic erasure of their religious identity.²

The Bhils, as with most tribal people, are not "unreached" or "lost souls" as these missionary missions make them out to be, they are the proud keepers of an ancient spiritual heritage that predates modern organized religions. Efforts to disjoin the Bhil community from their heritage is an act of cultural violence.

² <https://www.opindia.com/2025/04/throw-hindu-idols-in-the-drain-wear-cross-christian-missionary-in-kota-lures-50-members-of-bhil-community-with-money-foreign-travel/>

- **Rajasthan Family Coercion:** In October 2022, a couple in Rajasthan's Alwar district complained against family members who had converted to Christianity and reportedly coerced them to convert as well. The couple alleged harassment, vandalism of Hindu idols, and physical violence, highlighting familial and societal pressures that may follow religious conversions.
- **Intoxication and Conversion of Minors in Andhra Pradesh:** In December 2022, villagers in Maruvapalli, Andhra Pradesh accused a local church of enticing minors with sweets and trying to intoxicate them to convert them to Christianity. The episode sparked outrage among the community and brought to fore susceptibility of children to manipulative conversion practices.

Several reasons have been identified as contributing to the rise in religious conversions:

- ***Economic Vulnerability:*** Dalits and other downtrodden populations often go through abject economic poverty. Material aid, medical care and educational services offered by missionary organizations become tantalizing for poor populations to convert.



- **Caste-Based Discrimination:** Sustained caste discriminations lead people to seek respect and dignity through religions that purportedly teach equality such as Christianity.
- **Aggressive Preaching:** Some Christian missionaries embark on active campaigns, presenting Christianity as a path to material and spiritual salvation. Reports show that promises of miraculous cure and material support are used in enticing vulnerable individuals, especially in rural areas.



Patterns behind mass conversions—focusing on **psychological strategies, incentives, pseudo-miracles, sexual exploitation and systemic exploitation** replicated across various Indian states and organizations.

In India today, religious conversion is not just a matter of belief—it is a well-planned operation of psychological warfare, targeting emotionally vulnerable, culturally dislocated and economically troubled individuals and communities.

Exploiting Hope via 'Miracle Healing'

Miracle propaganda is the last emotional enticement. Staged events feature individuals standing up from wheelchairs, tumors vanishing or infertility being "cured by prayer."



Figure 3 Self-proclaimed Pastor Bijendra Singh performing miracle healing

None of it is medically confirmed. But to a mother whose child is ill or to a man who can't pay for a hospital, this is last hope and the cost is conversion.

In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, these miracle "crusades" are then videotaped, edited and sent around the world to raise donations. The individuals employed are forgotten; the video remains to produce more conversions elsewhere.

From Nagaland to Kanyakumari, the strategies are the same:

- Emotional manipulation for indoctrination
- Family and community isolation after conversion
- Guilt conditioning to avoid questioning
- Conversion as an exchange for relief from pain or need

It is not a coincidence but a **globalized, scripted system** of religious indoctrination in disguise as charity.

To treat this as mere "freedom of religion" is to dismiss its profound implications. This is emotional and cultural warfare which needs an equally strategic, compassionate and firm response, like:

- Ban unverified miracle healing practices under medical and consumer fraud laws.
- Define coercive conversion to include emotional blackmail, fear-based preaching and cultural shaming.
- Launch indigenous spiritual resilience campaigns – using traditional knowledge systems to rebuild pride and purpose in vulnerable communities.
- Establish trauma response cells for victims of forced conversion and cultural deracination.
- Audit foreign-funded NGOs with religious connections using real-time financial tracing and tracking software

While a lot has been said on the foreign-funded evangelism riding on India's weak sections, little attention is paid to swelling tide of cultural resistance across the land. These are not political agitations or provocation flashpoints. They are deeply rooted, grass-root attempts at **rebuilding pride, regaining spiritual identity and upholding dharma**—not by violence but by **seva (service) samrasta (harmony) and sanskriti (culture)**.

As evangelical networks employ psychological and economic strategies to destroy indigenous cultures, Bharat's civilizational essence is peacefully reasserting itself in movements that are **restorative, resilient and based on dignity**.

What is happening in our villages, tribal belts and temple towns is surreptitious **campaign of cultural dismantling**, facilitated by foreign funds, legal loopholes and institutional silence. This is not just about conversion, it is about **systematic civilizational erasure** disguised as charity.

Stakes are existential:

- Indigenous practices are being replaced by imported belief systems.
- Indigenous divine worships are being branded "false" as missionaries construct churches over holy land.
- Generations of Indians are being psychologically cut away from their ancestors, language, rituals and temples.

It is not merely about freedom of religion but about **freedom from coercion, cultural colonization and engineered amnesia.**

Concluding Observations:

Although freedom of religion is constitutionally guaranteed in India, exploitation and abuse inherent in some conversion activities are of serious social and ethical concern.

Evangelism is not a religious movement; it is a scheme. It is colonialism re-packaged for 21st century, less brutal, more coercive, and much more insidious.

India needs to invest in reviving and strengthening its indigenous knowledge systems, cultural knowledge and spiritual education. Standing up unapologetically and defending **civilizational integrity** may have to deepen right away.

Otherwise, conquest of India won't occur through the barrel of a gun but silently, village by village through tax-free donations, foreign missionaries and the gradual erasure of everything that ever made this land a cradle of dharma.

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