

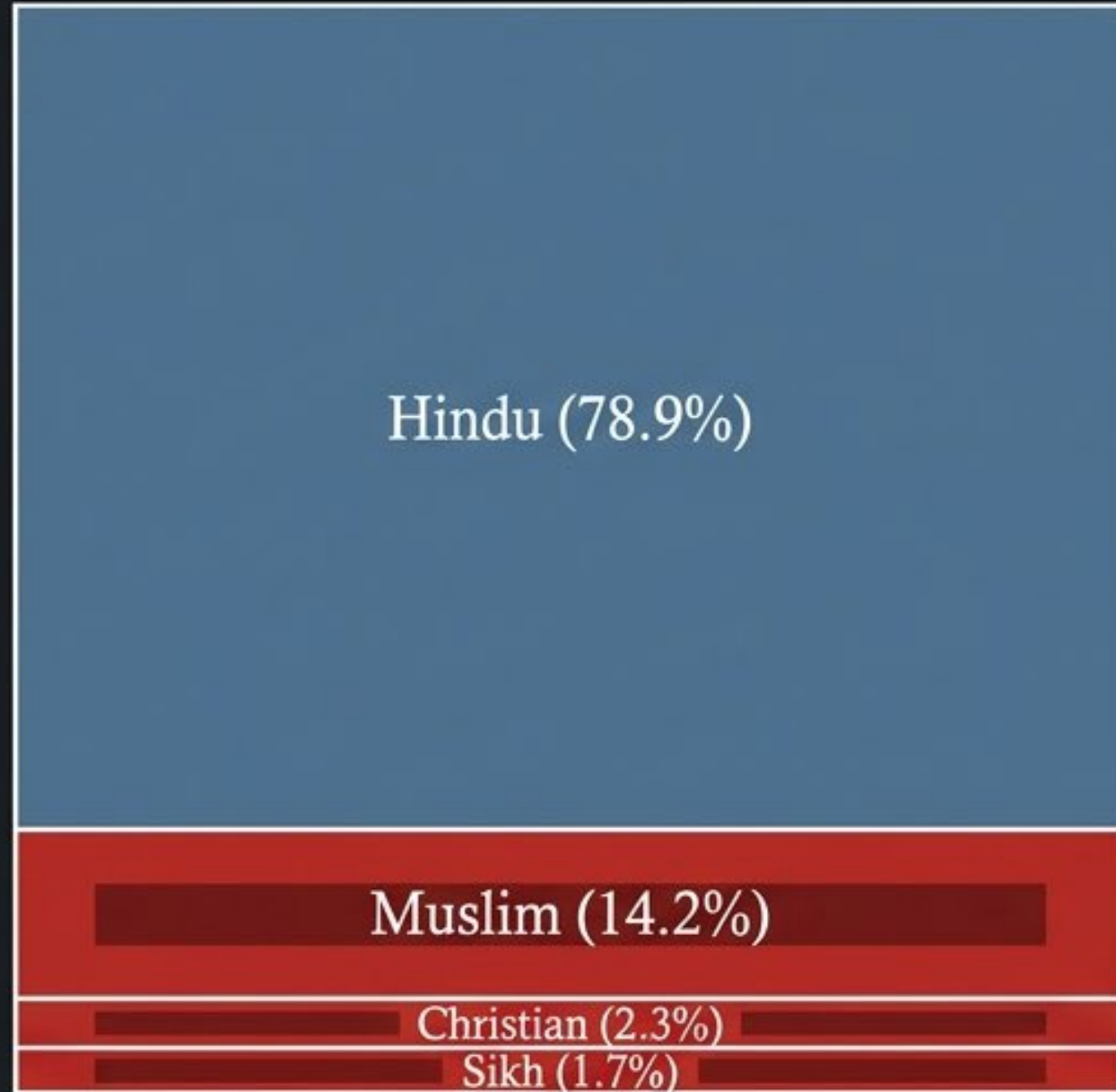
2026

The Architecture of Repression

India's Systematic Deterioration of Religious Freedom

An Urgent Policy Briefing Based on the 2026 USCIRF Country Brief

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN



Smaller populations include Parsis, Buddhists, Baha'is, and Jews.

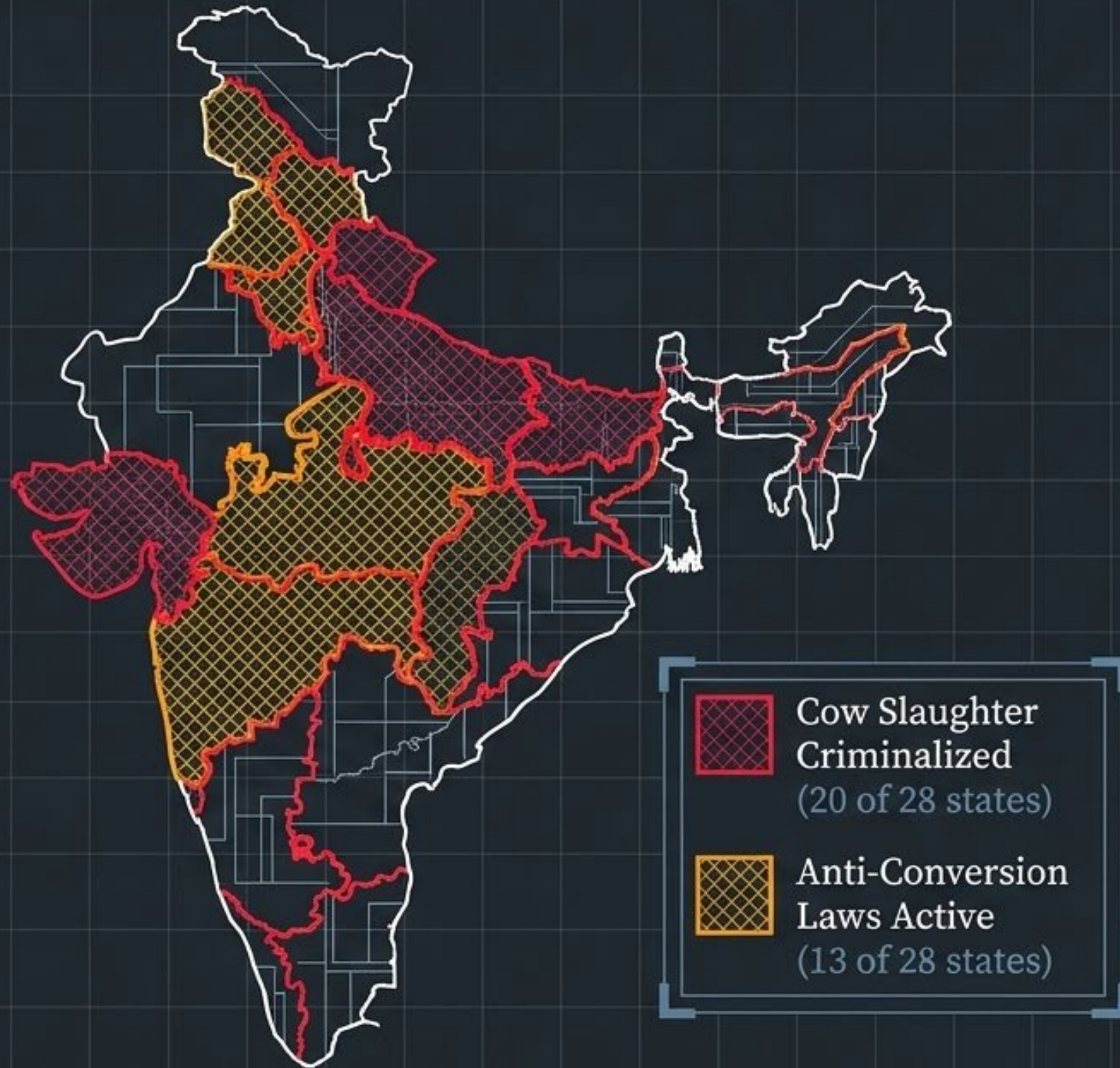
CORE THESIS

Religious freedom conditions in India remain on a downward trajectory in 2026. The Indian government has taken measures to implement discriminatory legislation directly impacting religious minority communities. These are systematic, ongoing, and increasingly egregious violations.

THE ENGINE OF HINDU NATIONALISM

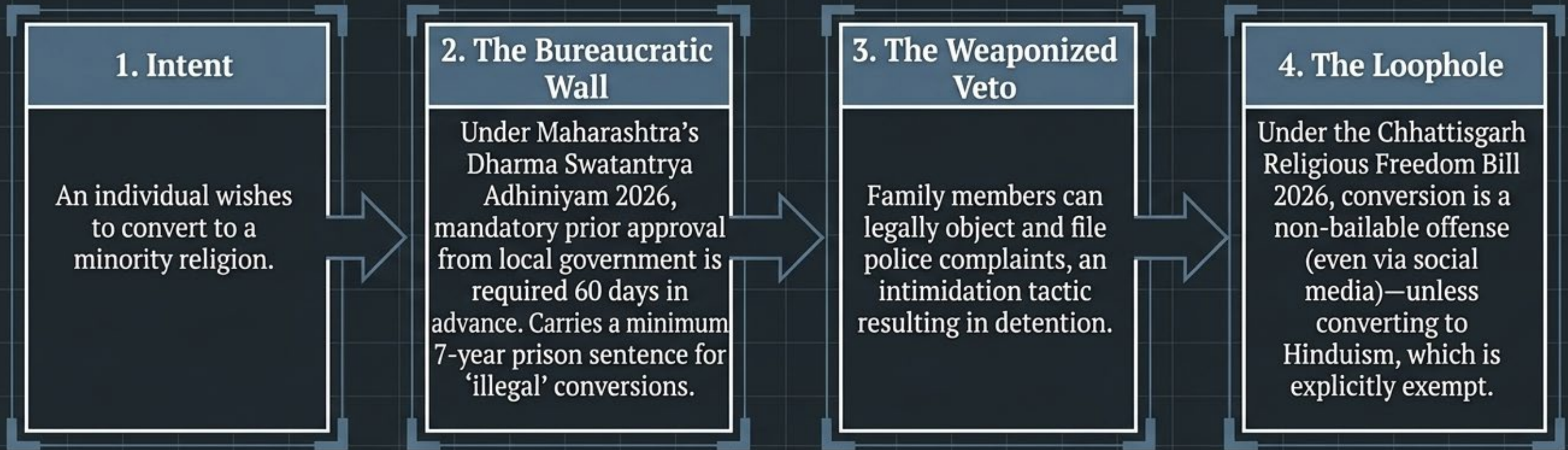


The Map of Encroachment



The Legal Squeeze:
Constitutional
protections are being
systematically
undermined at the
state level to target
minorities whose
practices do not align
with Hindutva.

Criminalizing Faith: The Mechanics of Anti-Conversion



ENFORCEMENT ACTION (Uttar Pradesh):

Police arrested Pastors Vivek Kumar and Mohit Chaudhary based on external complaints, while the state directed universities to establish 'anti-radicalization units' to curb campus conversions.

Weaponizing the Sacred: Cow Slaughter Laws

The Target: Under Article 48, 20 state bans disproportionately impact Muslims, Christians, and Dalits whose beliefs do not prohibit eating beef.

2026 Judicial Escalations

Madras High Court

Ordered Tamil Nadu to ban cow slaughter on Eid ul-Adha, ruling it is “neither essential to nor necessarily required as part of the religious ceremony.”

Calcutta High Court

Upheld an Eid beef ban following the BJP's electoral victory, weaponizing a previously dormant 1950 law.

The Cost of Justice

In June 2026, Muslim Judge Tabassum Khan in Madhya Pradesh faced targeted online harassment and severe death threats after she convicted vigilantes for a 2022 cattle-related lynching.

Disenfranchisement by Decree

Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)

National Register of Citizens (NRC)

The West Bengal Execution
(March-June 2026)

The Sweep: "Special Intensive Revision" (SIR) of voter lists.

The Justification: State claims need to purify electoral rolls of "infiltrators" (a derogatory term for Muslims).

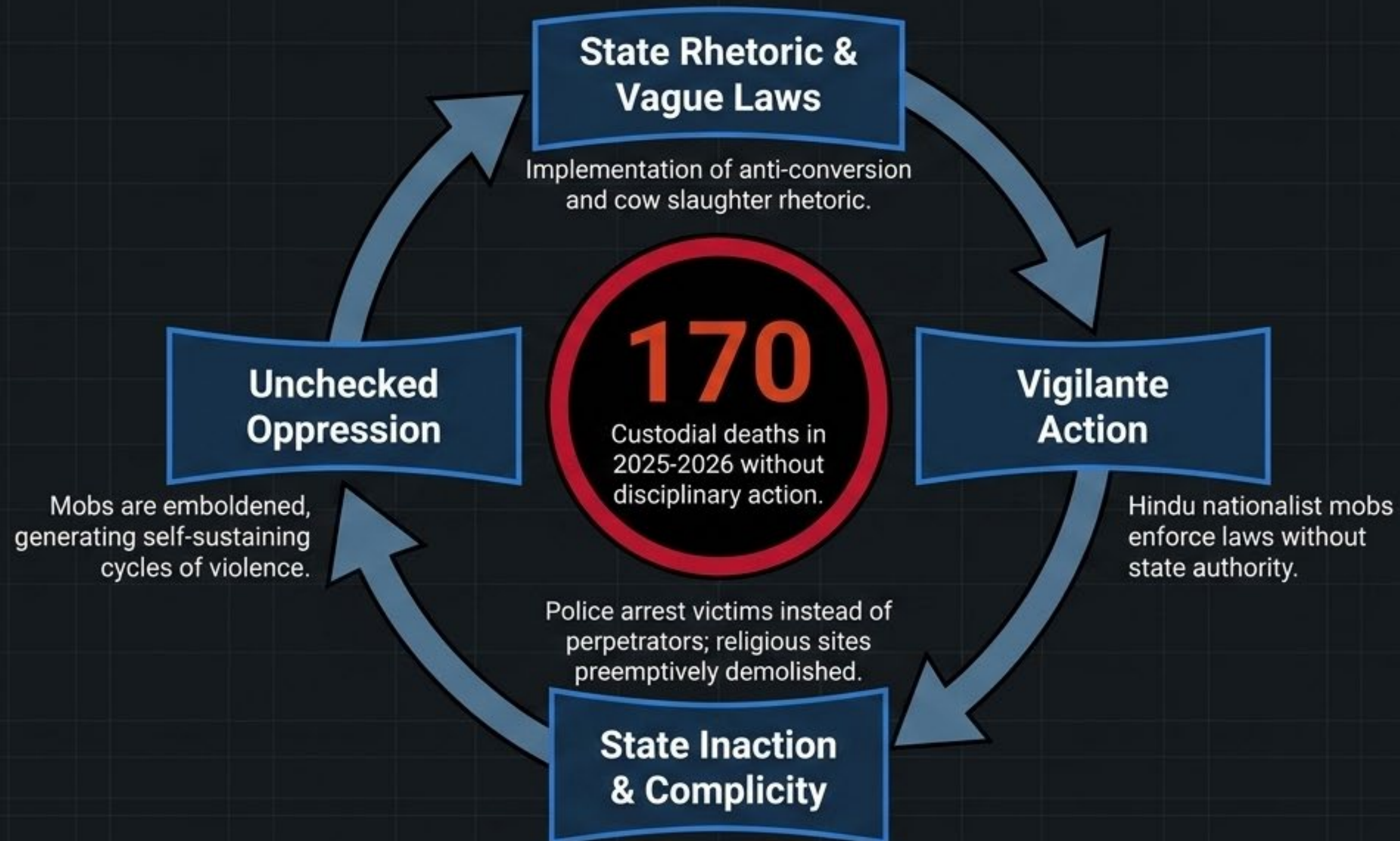
Construction of **state-run detention 'holding centers'** to detain stripped citizens.

9 Million+ Names Dropped from Voter Rolls

Border Security Force (BSF) executing **unlawful border pushbacks**; women and children left stateless.

The Cycle of Impunity

Structural mechanics of state-enabled violence (UN Special Procedures 2025)



Terrorizing Minorities: 2026 Incident Reports

ODISHA (January)

A Hindu nationalist mob attacked **Pastor Bipin Bihari Naik** during a prayer meeting under accusations of religious conversion.

He was beaten with sticks and subjected to degrading torture, forced to eat cow dung and drink sewer water.

CHHATTISGARH (March & May)

In **Erramangi**, 200 nationalists destroyed a Christian family's home for refusing to 'reconvert' to Hinduism.

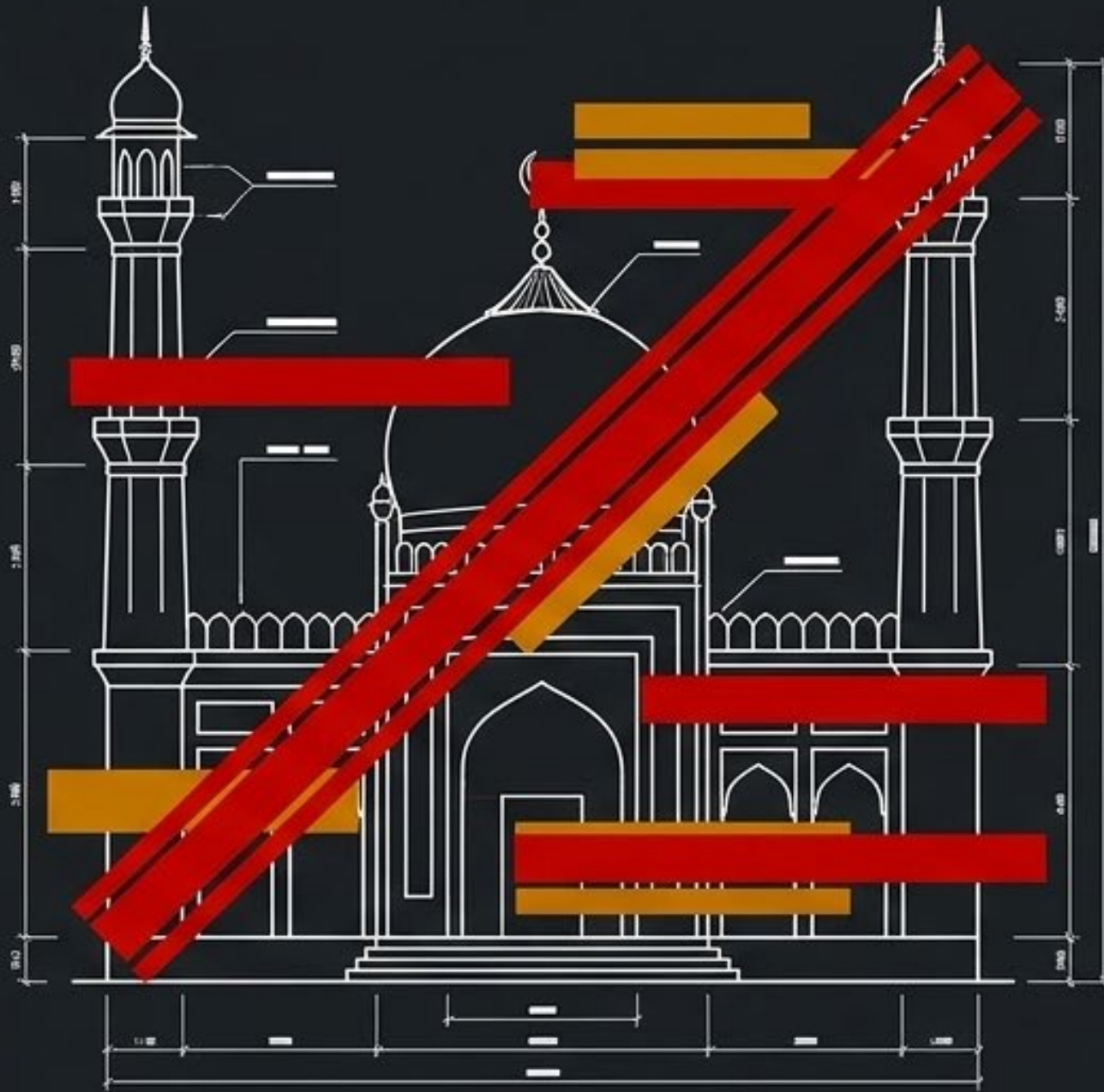
In May, a mob armed with machetes, bows, and arrows attacked a predominantly **Christian village**, injuring 25 worshipers, including a pregnant woman.

MANIPUR & M.P. (April & May)

In **Manipur**, three Baptist pastors were assassinated in an ambush while returning from an interchurch peace conference.

In **Madhya Pradesh**, a Dalit couple was denied entry to a **Hanuman Temple**, resulting in total social boycott by the community.

Erasure of the Sacred



The Mechanism

Local governments preemptively characterize minority religious sites as 'illegal structures' to bypass legal adjudication and justify immediate demolition.

The Execution (First Half 2026)

At least 14 mosques and dargahs were systematically demolished by state authorities in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The Expansion

Additional targeted demolitions of Muslim religious structures documented across Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, and Maharashtra.

Choking Civil Society

Severing lifelines through the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

The Scale

22,000

NGOs have lost their FCRA licenses since 2010, severing operations for major faith-based organizations (**World Vision, Compassion International, CASA, Evangelical Fellowship of India**).

The 2026 Escalation

- **March 2026:** Parliament introduces Section 14B, establishing a 'designated authority' to **seize** and **unilaterally manage** the assets of organizations with revoked or lapsed registrations.
- **June 2026:** Union Home Ministry officially gazettes Amendment Rules explicitly **banning** foreign funding from being used for proselytization, effectively **starving minority outreach**.

The Digital Iron Curtain

The Suppression Mechanisms

The Blackout Metric
World's Largest Offender
for Internet Blackouts (6
consecutive years)

According to Access Now, internet shutdowns are routinely deployed to hide anti-minority riots and silence calls for help.

Press Freedom Ranking:
157 out of 180 (Reporters
Without Borders).

2026 Draft IT Second
Amendment Rules substantially
increase the state's legal
architecture to suppress free
speech regarding religion.

Case Study - The Ban on Satluj (July 2026)

The Central Board of Film
Certification (CBFC) outright
banned a biopic of Jaswant
Singh Khaira, who documented
1990s extrajudicial executions
of Sikhs. When released
digitally in July 2026, the state
forced its removal within 48
hours citing "security
concerns."

Exporting Repression: The Blueprint Goes Global



Transnational Repression (FBI Definition): Foreign governments reaching beyond borders to intimidate, silence, coerce, or harm diaspora communities, directly threatening U.S. sovereignty.

The Threat Profile:
The intelligence apparatus of India is actively exporting its domestic blueprint of repression, utilizing assassination plots to systematically target the Sikh diaspora in North America.

The Sikh Diaspora Targeted



Assassination of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar. PM Trudeau confirms credible allegations of direct Indian government involvement.



2023
(The Catalyst)

Feb 2026
(The Warning)



⚠ Canadian authorities issue a formal "duty to warn" letter to Sikh activist Moninder Singh (his third warning of a credible, imminent threat to life).



Indian national Nikhil Gupta pleads guilty in SDNY to arranging a hit on a Sikh American citizen. Directed by Vikash Yadav, former official of India's RAW intelligence agency.



Feb 2026
(The Admission)



U.S. DOJ announces coordinated global arrests of 24 individuals linked directly to this transnational repression network.



July 7, 2026
(The Takedown)

The Human Toll: Prisoners of Conscience

Authorities systematically use anti-terrorism laws like UAPA for indefinite detention of advocates.

Umar
Khalid

Frank R. Wolf
FoRB Victims List

Sharjeel
Imam

Frank R. Wolf
FoRB Victims List

Jagtar
Singh Johal

Frank R. Wolf
FoRB Victims List

Ali Khan
Mahmudabad

Frank R. Wolf
FoRB Victims List

Imprisoned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for peacefully practicing their religion or advocating for the rights of others.

Synthesis: The Comprehensive Web of Target

	Legal Weaponization	Disenfranchisement	Mob Violence	Digital/Financial Censorship	Transnational Repression
Muslims	×	×	×	×	
Christians	×		×	×	
Dalits	×		×		
Sikhs				×	×
NGOs				×	

The persecution is not a series of isolated incidents; it is a totalizing, systematic squeeze applying bespoke mechanisms to eradicate the civic and physical presence of every minority group.

Imperative Policy Responses (Based on 2026 USCIRF Findings)

DESIGNATE

The U.S. Department of State must immediately designate India as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) due to systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations.

SANCTION

Implement targeted U.S. sanctions against India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) for orchestrating and executing transnational assassination plots.

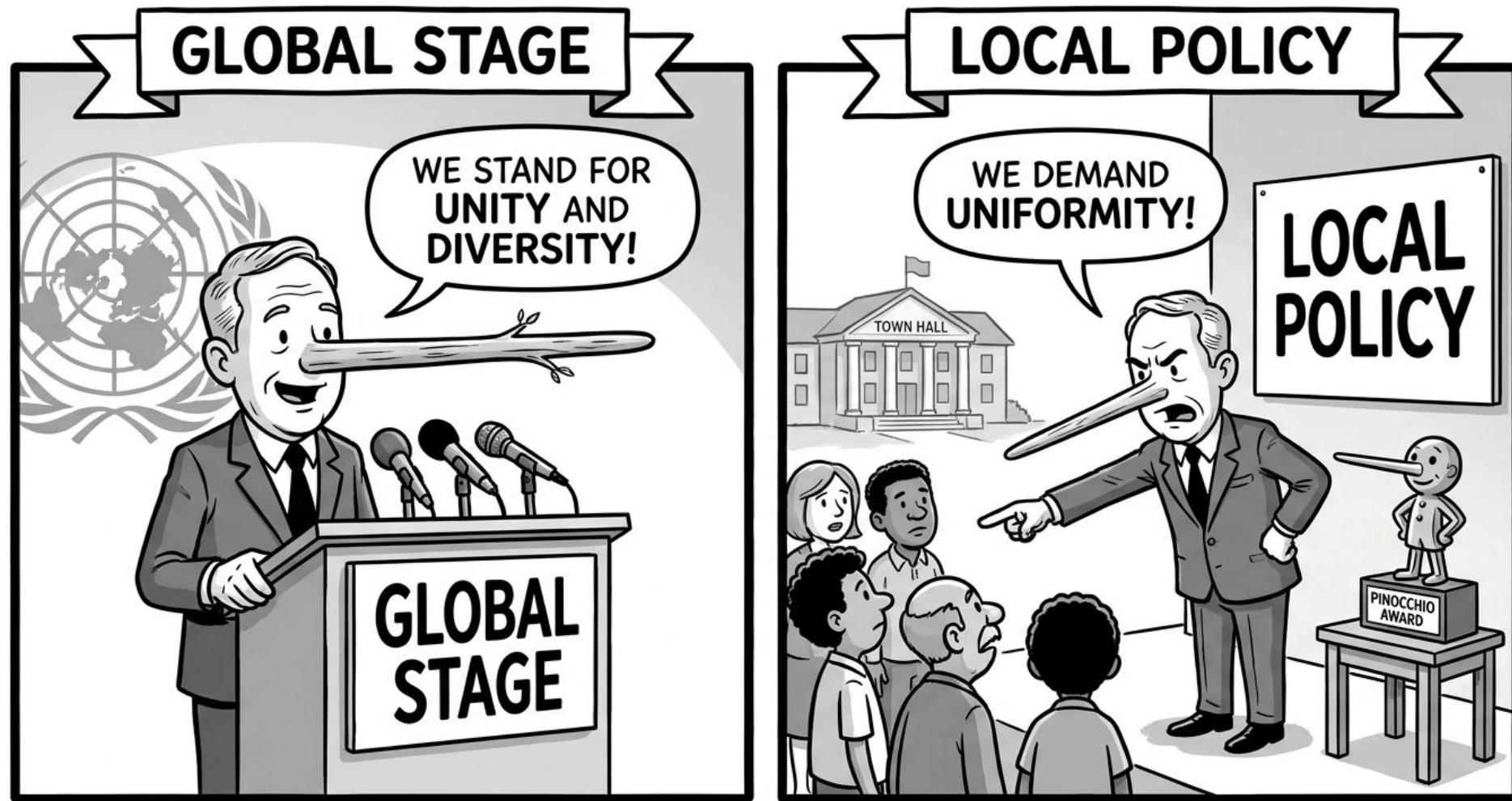
LEGISLATE

The U.S. Congress must reintroduce and immediately pass the Transnational Repression Reporting Act of 2024 to protect American sovereignty and diaspora communities.

The Pinocchio Paradox: Bhagwat's Rhetoric vs. Reality

RSS Chief's New York 'Diversity' Speech Collides with India's 'Uniformity' Preaching

The Double-Tongued Paradox



Gemini Notebook

- **Global Rhetoric in NY:** Speaking in New York, the RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat publically preached the message of 'unity with diversity' to a global audience.
- **Domestic Policy in India:** Simultaneously within India, the organization aggressively preaches rigid social 'uniformity' and enforces cultural homogenization.
- **The Pinocchio Award:** This jarring contradiction between global public relations and local governance constitutes a form of political dishonesty worthy of the metaphorical Pinocchio Award.