RISING RESTRICTIONS IN INDIA

The freedom to believe, live and speak is under attack in India. The past year's events reveal how the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continues to push a Hindu nationalist agenda and deny other religious groups their fundamental freedoms. India was recently added to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)'s first tier list of Countries of Particular Concern.

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The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is re-elected.	The Indian Supreme Court enacts the <i>National</i> <i>Population</i> <i>Register of Citizens</i> (<i>NPR</i>). The registry, originally created in 1951 is used to identify 'illegal Bangladeshi migrants' in the state of Assam. 1.9 million Muslim and Hindu residents' are stripped of their citizenship.	The BJP give non- Muslim migrants a 'fast track to citizenship' by enacting the <i>Citizenship</i> <i>Amendment Act.</i> Protests break out as a result. Police and BJP affiliated groups use violence to crush protesters. Religious minorities including Muslims and Christians are targeted.	India's Home Ministry instructs the National Crime Records Bureau to remove data about the lynchings that occurred.	Delhi police do little to stop violence occurring in predominantly Muslims neighbour- hoods.	BJP authorities blame Muslim group, Tablighi Jamaat for spreading the Corona virus despite proof that the group had not violated any ban on large gatherings. Authorities continued to spread misinformation about the group, claiming members were engaging in 'corona terrorism' activity.	Persecution against Christians intensify. Persecution Relief reports in August that 293 religiously motivated cases had taken place since January 2020. India's Union Home Ministry suspends four Christian associations' license, canceling their ability to receive

foreign funding.