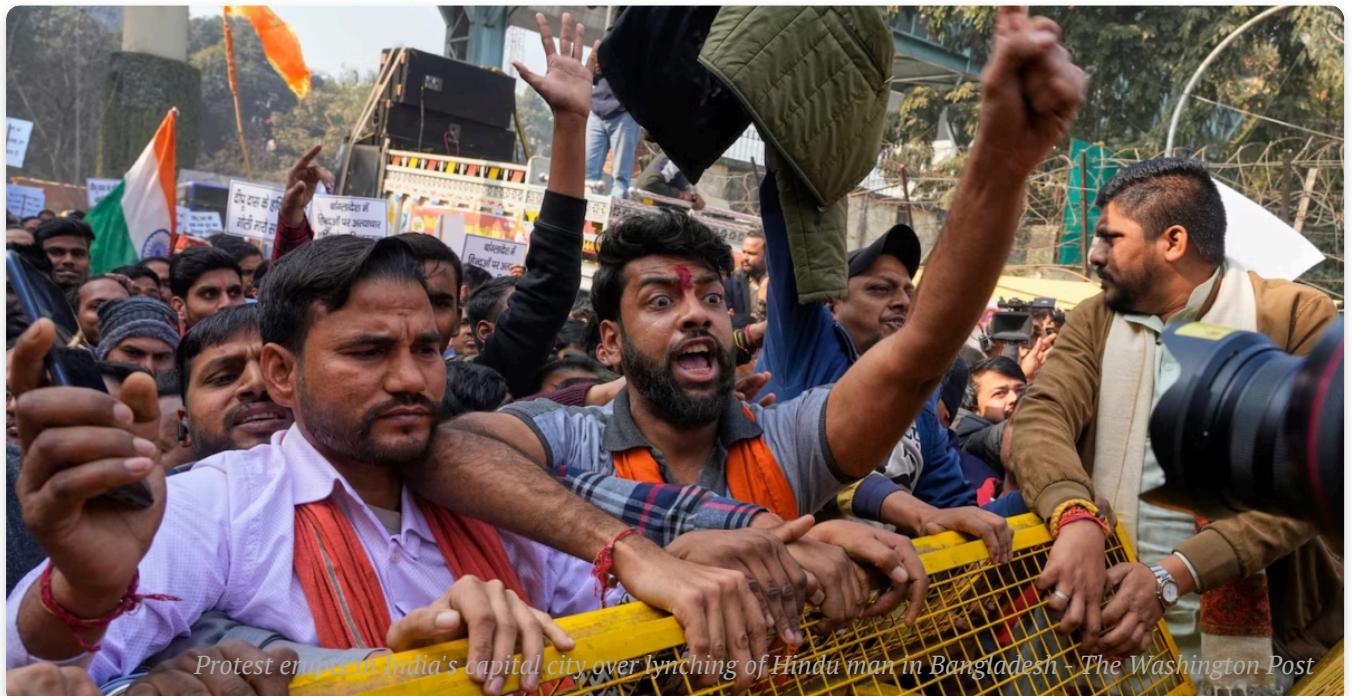




A Moment of Moral Reckoning: India's Outrage and the Urgent Need to Rethink Minority Safety Across South Asia

BY SANYA D. KISHWAR ON DECEMBER 29, 2025

SOCIETY



“ Author’s Message: As the author of this piece, I unequivocally condemn the brutal lynching of Dipu Chandra Das, a young Hindu garment-factory worker in Mymensingh, Bangladesh—an act of violence so horrifying that it has shaken consciences across the region. Reports confirm that he was beaten by a mob, his body tied to a tree, and ultimately set ablaze over an allegation of blasphemy. Such atrocities demand not only our outrage but also deep reflection.

— SANYA DARAKHSHAN KISHWAR

An Outpouring of Grief and Anger in India

The response across India has been immediate and intense. Demonstrations surged from Delhi to Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Assam, Tripura, and Jammu. Many gathered outside Bangladeshi missions, some met with police force as tensions escalated. These protests, though varied in tone and intensity, all carried a shared message: "*This cannot continue.*"

Prominent political voices, including Priyanka Gandhi and Shashi Tharoor, called the murder "extremely disturbing," urging the Indian government to raise the safety of minorities at the highest diplomatic levels. Their statements reflect a rare moment of unanimity across the political spectrum.

Rising Diplomatic Strain

India summoned the Bangladeshi envoy, pressing Dhaka for a thorough investigation and protection for minorities. Bangladesh responded by summoning the Indian High Commissioner, describing protests near its missions as a security breach, while also characterizing the lynching as an "isolated case", a claim many in India found dismissive given the scale of tension. Visa services were suspended on both sides, signalling a troubling deterioration in bilateral relations.

A Region on Edge

This tragedy did not occur in isolation. Bangladesh was already in turmoil following the death of student leader Sharif Osman Hadi, whose killing sparked widespread protests and anti-India rhetoric. Images of stone-pelting outside the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and unrest targeting India-linked institutions only deepened fears within India about the rising vulnerability of minorities in Bangladesh.

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Why This Must Be a Turning Point

What happened to Dipu is not merely a Bangladeshi issue. It is a South Asian issue, a human issue, and a moral issue. This moment calls for collective introspection across the subcontinent. Minorities, be they Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, tribal, or otherwise, must not live at the mercy of mob sentiment, political upheaval, or extremist provocation. If we, as a region, truly value pluralism and democracy, then protecting vulnerable communities cannot be optional, it must be foundational.

A Call for Regional Courage

The tragedy in Bangladesh has struck a chord in India not simply because the victim was Hindu, but because it exposes a broader fragility in how South Asian societies grapple with identity, justice, and the rule of law.

It is time for governments, civil society, scholars, and ordinary citizens to demand stronger safeguards for minorities, accountability for acts of hate, and a regional commitment to dignity and equal citizenship. Only then can we hope to prevent future atrocities and ensure that South Asia remains not just a place of shared borders, but of shared humanity.

Views are personal.

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Bangladesh lynching Featured

