

The Rise of a Hindu Vigilante in the Age of WhatsApp and Modi | WIRED

By Mohammad Ali

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Facebook, which owns both platforms, tells WIRED that it has expanded its content review team in India, and has made progress in pulling down content that violates its standards on its eponymous blue app. But WhatsApp, the far more popular platform, essentially *has* no community standards. Because all of its communication is encrypted, the content that flows through it is entirely in the hands of its users.

After about 10 minutes, I handed Premi's phone back to him. His mood seemed worse.

I asked what he and the Bajrang Dal were focusing on these days. "Illegal immigrants," he said. Millions of Bangladeshis, he told me, had infiltrated India and spread out across the country, and the Bajrang Dal was on high alert about it. "Have you noticed the illegal settlements of Muslims on the outskirts of every city in the last five to 10 years? This is new. They didn't live here before," he said. "We have to beware of such people who don't look Indian." It sounded like he might just be describing poor settlements of Indian Muslims.

[...]

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