

## ***Shrinking Spaces: Impact of Hindutva Populism on the Vulnerable***

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The resurgence of the NDA in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections underlines the evolving political mindset of the majority in India. The Hindutva ideology that the BJP espouses has been validated yet again on the national stage. The impact of this ideology on the public sphere – especially between 2014-19 has been pronounced with persecution of minorities, mob lynching, caste-based atrocities and those who oppose the ruling alliance. A further insidious attempt is the reframing of the existing policies with a specific agenda to cater to populist demands. These significant problems will in all probability now intensify with the re-election of a populist religious nationalist agenda. The aim of the paper is to evaluate the effect of this agenda on the everyday public sphere of India, quantify the rise of religious populism and its spatial distribution. The paper would seek to understand the mobilization of electoral support by a populist regime and specifically the impact this has on minority and tribal populations of India.