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# **Witch-Hunting in India: A Socio-Legal Study**

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## **I. Introduction**

The purpose of the research is to find out whether people still believe in witch-craft or not and the need to make them aware about the supernatural things and myths of black magic as they are detrimental for the present society. The research paper is done asking a list of questions to the people and their views on witch-hunting and the need of central legislation which is equally important to break the superstitious belief of black magic and to prevent it.

### **1.1 Witch-Hunting in Present India**

It is fundamentally a sort of endeavour to locate a specific gathering of individuals who are being accused for something is based on the topic Witch-Hunting in India: A socio-legal study. Witch-hunting may be acquired different names as 'Chudail', 'Dayan', Tohni etc. The purpose of the research is to find out whether people still believe in witch-craft or not and the need to make them aware about the supernatural things and myths of black magic as they are detrimental for the present society.

Back in the times past, society chased and oppressed people they accepted were occupied with the act of black magic or magic. There were no proof of witch-chasing in India before but at present India is the place where the women are treated as picture or considered as a badge of their nearby network, family, station and all other contrasting divisions. Where people on one hand love them in name of Goddesses on the other hand execute them considering them witches. This demonstration of killing isn't new for Indian culture rather it has its profound roots ever. From the start when witch-chasing was inspected people thought of terrible ladies with a brush who can fly, who can disappear. Witch-hunting is all the more growing in 12 conditions of India which are orchestrated in like Jharkhand, Bihar, Haryana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Rajasthan and U.P.

The causes of witch-hunting are boredom as for young ladies, understanding books, and going to little circles including fortune telling and telling/tuning in to different stories - among other additionally about witches and black magic - were the primary type of diversion; strong belief in the occult practices as the Puritans unequivocally put stock in the presence of witches and black magic. As indicated by the conviction, witches were in shared advantage with the villain that gave them capacity to do hurt.

## 1.2 Why Witch-hunting is Still Being Continued?

- 1) The question of proof – So as to rebuff one for rehearsing witch chasing, the court needs affirmation. In case of witch-chasing, it is a wrongdoing which is indicated socially by one's demonstration either by dread or acknowledgment of the preparation the individuals to remain calm, which makes issue in get-together data and gathering confirmations.
- 2) *Absence of the National Legislation* –As it has been referenced before India doesn't have a particular national enactment or laws for forestalling witch chasing. It is secured under the segments of Indian Penal Code and as per its disciplines are allowed in a restrained way. Along these lines, there is a need of appropriate enactment to execute this offensive practice.
- 3) From the society- This inability to develop a particular law identifying with witch-chasing disregards a few centre rights gave by various universal settlements and shows all inclusive, which incorporates the privilege to non-separation, the privilege to security, the privilege to life, option to get to national councils and the most significant option to carry on with a better than average and stately life liberated from savage and cruel treatment.
- 4) Poor implementation of common laws–As referenced over barely any states in spite of everything doesn't have a different law to deal with the cultural wrong of witch-chasing, despite the fact that the pace of witch-chasing is exceptionally high there. Also, the states which have sanctioned laws and are not powerful as it is missing legitimate support and certain necessities because of the nonattendance of national enactment.

### **1.3 Social Awareness Regarding Witch-Hunting**

Social awareness is the capacity to take the point of view of and relate to others from differing foundations and societies, to get social and moral standards for conduct, and to perceive family, school, and network assets and supports. One of the most significant aptitudes for secondary school graduates entering the work power are connected to social mindfulness: polished skill, coordinated effort, correspondence, and social duty. With great social mindfulness one can precisely understand circumstances and individuals since they can comprehend and relate to their feelings.

## **II. LEGAL MATERIAL AND METHOD**

### **Laws and the Constitution of India on Contrary with Witch-Hunting**

#### **2.1 Legislative Approach to Witch-Hunting**

There are different law that were in power of worldwide, national and in various other states that gives serious discipline to the people who are rehearsing witch-hunting and are include in such sort of evil practices.

Certain International Instruments are –

- 1) Article 1, 3, 5, 12, 13, 17(2), 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- 2) Article 6(1), 7, 9(1), 17, 18(2) of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- 3) Article 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11 of Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from being subjected to torture and the other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- 4) Article 2(e), 2(f), 3, 5(a), 14(f), 15(4) of Convention of the Elimination of All forms of discrimination against women.

Certain National Instruments are-

- 1) Article 14, 15(3), 15(4), 21, 51, 51A(h) of the Constitution of India
- 2) Drugs and Magic Remedies (objectionable advertisements) Act, 1954
- 3) Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
- 4) Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes (prevention of atrocities) Act, 1989
- 5) Section 302, section 299, section 354 and section 375 of the Indian Penal Code

### Certain State Level Instruments

- 1) The Prevention of Witch (Dayan) Practices Act, 1999 – Bihar, being most backward was the first state in India to pass a law against witch-hunting.
- 2) The Prevention of Witch (Dayan) Practices Act, 2001
- 3) Established the Chattisgarh Tonahi Pratadna Nivaran Act, 2005 to prevent atrocities on women in name of Tonhi.
- 4) Rajasthan government passed a bill Rajasthan Women (Prevention and Protection from Atrocities) 2006, which makes such practices illicit too culpable for calling any lady as "dayan" or to denounce a lady for rehearsing black magic, which stretches out to three years of detainment and Rs 5000 fine.
- 5) The Odisha Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2013
- 6) The Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013
- 7) The Rajasthan Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2015
- 8) The Assam Witch-Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Act, 2015
- 9) The Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act, 2017

There are no particular and specific national level enactment that rejects the act of Witch-hunting and subsequently the arrangements under the Indian Penal Code 1860 can be utilized as an elective hotspot for the person in question. Till now, no different laws established in Maharashtra against witch-hunting and the primary explanation for it is the restriction from some strict gatherings who accepts that the sanctioned law may remove their old and customary rituals. Presently after these occurrences occurred, witch-hunting has expanded and the state government has just intended to pass a bill to annihilate the social ills and human penance. Among the states where witch-hunting is practiced in specific zones of West Bengal like Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum goes under the ambit of those states. Still the state government has failed to develop an alternate sanctioning to manage it.

Aside from these state enactments, there are different bodies built up to forestall witch-chasing

and elevate insurance to women and to guarantee those rights fundamental for them to carry on with a serene existence with pride. That is a gathering of lawful asset working for social equity and women's' privilege in India,

numerous NGO's like Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra, working for the anticipation and assurance for women from the social evil of witch-hunting, which has filed a PIL in Supreme Court identifying with the maltreatment of women for the sake of witch-hunting.

Apart from such NGO's and other bodies neutralizing witch-hunting, a bill "Counteraction and Prohibition of Witch-Hunting" has been drafted by individuals from Human Rights Defence International, which is as yet pending. Its target is to set up national enactment identifying with witch-hunting.

The Government of India has a commitment to protect women from segregation based on sexual orientation and furthermore give essential rights and security conceded by various worldwide arrangements, contract and laws. Subsequently certain laws were made and are as per the following:

- A worldwide law, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948, gives security against any segregation and advances balance under the steady look of law. It likewise affirms right to life and freedom to each individual.
- Being a worldwide body, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), India related with it in 1979, advances fairness among people by certain equivalent rights to people in common just as political area and forbids others from including anybody's fundamental rights. Article 7 of ICCPR has unmistakably referenced the denial of remorselessness, cruel or corrupting treatment and by partner with the contract it is compulsory just as obligation of the Indian government to execute these guidelines.

## **2.2 Need for Central Legislation**

There were no severe laws before the sanction of the state level enactments on counteraction of witch-hunting and the charged were attempted under segment 323, 354, 509 of Indian Penal Code just as the fierce demonstrations of stoning and hurting are treated as basic or general hurt.

The Prevention of Witch-Hunting Bill was presented in Lok Sabha in 2016 by Sri Raghav Lakhanpal and yet it was never passed. Present laws don't give any compelling system to have the casualties to recover the results of witch-hunting including constrained relocation, took steps to move out from the town, social and financial blacklist.

## 2.3 Judicial Declarations

### 1) *Tula Devi and other Vs. State of Jharkhand*

Here, 10 individuals furnished with sticks went into the place of the complainant and mishandled and ambushed her. Since the most recent two years they used to call and address her as Dayan and requested her to leave the spot strongly. In any case, there were nonappearance of onlooker and subsequently the case was excused.

### 2) *Madhu Munda Vs. State of Bihar*

For this situation, mother, who was thrown out of the house by certain individuals and was accounted for missing and recorded a FIR. Following 8 days, the mother was found in a discard where she was oblivious, as she was tossed out by those individuals. She went to her sibling's home when she recovered her cognizance. Once more, the denounced was not indicted because of the temperamental declaration of the witness.

### 3) *State of West Bengal vs. Kali Singh and others*

The Calcutta High Court, saw that the legal execution in the cases of witch-hunting doesn't help in destroying such sort of underhanded practices as in light of the fact that it has its root in the attitude of men. It was in this manner held that, the court while giving discipline of capital punishment to the seven men who were blameworthy of slaughtering three ladies trusting them to be witches held the state untrustworthy in performing their responsibility of giving training to all of the nations.<sup>1</sup>

In the Constitution of India, there are certain provisions which ensure right to life, its assurance and individual freedom under Article 21 of the Constitution. Similarly, Article 14 ensures 'uniformity under the watchful eye of the law' which means the State will not deny to any individual fairness under the steady look of the law or equivalent insurance of the laws inside the region of India. On the national front, the Prevention and Protection of Witch-Hunting Bill, 2013 is an on-going turn of events. The rising of witch-hunting wrongdoings in certain

conditions of eastern India constrained them to draft enactment against the danger. Bihar, even it for its backwardness, was the first state to pass such law that are against witch-hunting quite a while. In 1999, the Prevention of Witch (Daayan) Practices Act became effective. Jharkhand went with the same pattern. Also, it passed 'The Jharkhand Prevention of International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences.'<sup>2</sup>

The Rajasthan Prevention of Witch-chasing Act, 2015 (hereinafter "the Act") came into power in April 2015. The exceptional establishment, as the name recommends, is apparently focused at fighting the issue of witch-chasing that wins in the State.

Under Section 15 of this Act, the State Government is enabled to make rules for the execution of the arrangements of the Act. The 2016 Rules have been made in exercise.

The Assam Witch-Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Act, 2015, gave measures to preclude witch-chasing and help in restoration of survivors of such offenses. President Ram Nath Kovind had endorsed the Assam Witch-Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015, changing over it to an Act, just about three years after it was passed by the state Assembly. President Kovind gave his accent to the Bill on 13<sup>th</sup> June, making any offense under the Act as non-bailable, cognizable and non-compoundable, according to information open on the official site of the president's secretariat.<sup>1</sup>

### **III. RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Witch-hunting still a Normal Occurrence in India, One Person Killed in Every Three Days**

In India, each third day there was a demise for dark enchantment that must be accounted for with most of the casualties being ladies. As indicated by the National Crime Records Bureau, 2000 to 2012, numbers of 2,097 individuals were killed in the purpose of witch-chasing that has brought an issue of how a lady is set apart as a witch. Widows or single ladies become all the more unprotected to demonstrations of analysis in such cases. Regardless of the reality, she was tossed out of her town for attempting to forestall murders for the sake of witch-chasing where she has spared in excess of 40 individuals from being executed through her steady endeavours and gave trust in a positive change.<sup>1</sup>

### 3.2 Major States Having Impact on Witch-Hunting in India

#### 1. Assam

*Mayong*, a place near Pobitara Wildlife Sanctuary called 'the place that is known for dark enchantment or dull charm'. There are some old parts or hints of Ayurveda and dark enchantment that doesn't exist which have been saved in the Mayong Central Museum. Ailment also can be restored with the help of this enchantment magic.<sup>2</sup>

*Jatinga*: Thinking about all things, the term Bird Suicide, where 44 kinds of winged animals in Jatinga out of the blue become upset between 6.00-9.30pm extended periods. The winged creatures get managed with unexplained event and crash towards the floodlights of watchtowers or the lights of the houses in the town gives off an impression of being to some degree odd, the real story behind this term is more irregular.

#### TWO WOMEN WERE MARKED AS WITCHES AND BURIED ALIVE IN ASSAM, BUT WE ARE STILL QUIET ABOUT WITCH-HUNTING

In Assam, two women were driven into a well and covered alive the night. They were executed subsequent to being set apart as witches. As indicated by these totally appalling bits of knowledge, a dark enchantment related demise is accounted for nearly for each third day in India. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data shows that 2,290 individuals, for the most part ladies were killed in India somewhere in the range of 2001 and 2014 for dark enchantment and may step by step increment by time. The Assam murders remained a report on the homicide of the two ladies in Assam, that remaining parts only a news report that individuals gambled upon. It was the same in different pieces of the nation that report a high pace of viciousness against ladies checked and bothered as witches.<sup>3</sup>

#### BRANDED WITCHES AND DRAGGED TO HELL

In case of *Bhim Turi and two Ors Vs. The State of Assam (2017)*, two guiltless individuals were marked as witches and were exposed to serious maltreatment for the sake of such insidious practice in the general public. Furthermore, after this, the Assam Legislative Assembly had sent a Bill to the President of India for consent however till now it is pending before the Home Ministry of Government of India.

## 2. Rajasthan

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took suo moto discernment of the case of requesting a report on the activities taken on situations where ladies have been survivors of witch-hunting. As indicated by the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch-chasing Act, 2015, "witch" signifies a lady, privately known as "dayan", "dakan", "dakin".

## 3. Bihar

There are numerous cases that discuss about the zones one grew up observing witch-chases in the regions like Madhuban, Bariarpur and Kharagpur. It has been seen that the law making body of Bihar has passed the Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practice Act, 1999 (Bihar Act 9 of 1999) and certain rules and uncommon enactment to be given the issue of witch-chasing to control the insidious provide legal counsel and structure an advisory group including certain specialists from the field of policy management, sociologists to glance in the matter of the pervasive act of witch-chasing as said on account of *Gaurav Jain Vs. State of Bihar 1991 Supp (2) SCC 133*.

## 4. West Bengal

### ANTI-WITCH HUNTING LAW IN WEST BENGAL

The administration of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee-drove government had encircled a commission headed by Justice Pranab Kumar Chatterjee, to submit proposals on the law. As indicated by the proposal set forward, it is additionally proposed to utilize the fine paid by the blamed towards compensating the casualties for their family. It is likewise remembered for the report that the state government is also unbending activity against the people who practice dark enchantment.

## 5. Orissa

Witch-hunts and odd notion related infringement are on the ascent in some part of the Maoist-influenced regions in Odisha, notwithstanding the state being one of just a bunch relatively few in the nation with a law to check such offenses.

Odisha's law against witch-hunting

Odisha is the main state in the nation to have a law Odisha Prevention of Witch-chasing Bill, 2013 against witch-chasing, which was passed by the state Assembly in December 2013 preceding it goes to an Act in February 2014. It portrays witch-chasing as a show of exclusion, lead as for any individual recognizing, charging or stigmatizing a woman as a witch, or annoying, hurting or harming such a lady intellectually or truly by harming her property. The law likewise enables the state government to make plans to make mindfulness against dazzle convictions and insidious practices like witch-chasing. If there should arise an occurrence of *Mrs. Sashiprava Bindhani Vs. Territory of Orissa (April, 2005)*, the court held that as there were no enactment to deal with the issue of witch-chasing, the state government must present proper law before law-making body and give rules to forestall witch chasing in the province of Orissa.

### • **3.3 Some News Related to Black Magic World Wide**

- Christopher Wray, aged 50, who has been nominated by US President Donald Trump to lead the Federal Bureau of Investigation after he fired James Comey from the same position in May said that the Russia probe was not involved in witch-hunting. (*Updated 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, 7:53 am*)
  - A selective update on dark enchantment allegations against the youngsters and powerless individuals may increment in Britain because of the pandemic malady that has spread around the world, the COVID-19 coronavirus episode as said by a senior cop. As very nearly 2000 kids were distinguished as expected survivors of misuse connected to confidence and faith in England during the last money related year and such practices has been seen as brought about a few deaths.<sup>4</sup>
- ### • **3.4 Recent News Related to Witch-Hunting**

- In India, on 30th January 2019, witch trackers execute mother and four youngsters who were discovered dead in a well close to her their home. 6 were captured in eastern territory of Orissa. The senior Police Officer cited BBC news channel that the primary denounced who are captured was professed to be a witch specialist of Sundargarh area and suspected some more. As per the police record, 99 instances of witch-hunting were accounted for in 2017 that has expanded from the earlier year when the quantity of cases were 83.<sup>5</sup>
- Three ladies in Bihar's Muzaffarpur region were supposedly compelled to drink pee and their heads were shaved off by a gathering of individuals who called them witches for

the sake of commitment on sixth May, 2020. Where later on nine individuals were captured who were engaged with this wrongdoing.<sup>6</sup>

- A woman matured 81 years of age in Himachal Pradesh, who was known as a witch marked with dark face and wreath around the neck where 21 were captured. Another case, where an ancestral man, a rancher of Puttabandha town, who was worked out and consumed alive by the locals in Andhra Pradesh on doubt of dark enchantment for an ongoing demise of a 10 years of age young woman who was falling day off by day by day.<sup>7</sup>
- It was speculated that numerous individuals who lost their lives to Japanese Encephalitis in Assam didn't take part in the inoculation drive a year ago inferable from a notion dark enchantment that it would influence their power. *(Updated by Pranjal Baruah, 13 July, 2019, 1:54 pm)*
- Another case was found in Madhya Pradesh which was common in 9 towns of Rajgarh and 3 in Shajapur where the patidar ladies battled to end the act of considering a woman a witch-hunt. *(Updated by Vivek Trivedi, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 10:56 pm)*
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi precluded that no political witch chasing will test into the Augusta Westland chopper bargain saying that the examining organizations will do proficient employment and will act in like manner. *(27<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, 8:44 pm)*
- Congress Party Chief, Sonia Gandhi said that the Narendra Modi government is rehearsing Witch-chasing as congress examined on charges when Sonia Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi went to go to the vow taking service at presidential royal residence in New Delhi on 26th May, 2014. *(Updated on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, 8:34 am)*
- The witch chasing threat, which has seen numerous guiltless ladies being abused, tormented and even murdered in Jharkhand, has likewise hit their relatives who were avoided from the general public by the people of the village. *(3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014, 10:09 am)*

## IV. Conclusion and Suggestions

The act of witch-hunting is a smear on the present-day society. Today, right to protection and security, notoriety and web have been pronounced as our essential rights. India is taking a shot at the method of headway yet at the same time the fundamental option to lead a common presence is denied to individual in numerous pieces of the nation. Till now there is no

incorporated framework to restore the casualties which is a substantial social outcome of witch-hunting.

To make it all the more clear about the idea of witch chasing or black magic I did a little overview where I picked individuals directly from the age gathering of adolescent to mature age, in which some of them are profoundly taught and gotten some information about their feeling towards dark enchantment honestly. What I found is still people do believe in black magic to some extent according to various situations. They say that black magic is a kind of art just like hypnotism and it depends on whether people can practice black magic or not. Finding no possible explanations of certain facts that happened practically either heard about it or seen it or faced it they do believe in it. If it is seen practically, they say that in the primitive period black magic was used and practiced for good purposes and now it is a kind of business to do fraudulent activities with other people and some said that many years back the Ayurvedic science was highly developed and used by the Puritans for treatment purpose but some people misused this science for their own benefit of taking revenge. Nowadays, in the name of black magic people have started to involve in murders.

Some people say that witchcraft is a thinking of a pessimistic person and is a kind of dark thinking and also unscientific; and some people said that black magic is used as a last option finding no other solution to their problems. Some said that due to lack of education and knowledge the concept of witchcraft started and the intention of it gone worst in the present day. Although in primitive era, it was done in good faith but now people say it's beyond education because even the educated ones sometimes chose black magic as their last option.

There as some people who said that if magic is believed then black magic must be accepted and when magic is misused there comes the birth of black magic. Again, one of them believing in black magic said that it is a kind of Tantra-Vidya which is very old believing that the positive power of God always destroys the evil power. Asking them about the need of law to prohibit such practices some from 21<sup>st</sup> century say that there is an urgent need of law to stop these kinds of practices and some from 20<sup>th</sup> century say that law on prohibition of witch-hunting practices is not required as because till now no such emergent situation has occurred.

***Talking to the teenagers*** of this century, they believed that black magic cannot be ignored and believing that it is used as business purpose mostly in present day, they say that the superstitious beliefs can never be vanished and will prevail forever and some said that it

depends on people whether they want to live with such kind of beliefs and practices or people must develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform among the society to boost human rights as mentioned under Article 51-A(h) of the Constitution of India.

I think it is compulsory to take productive measures to destroy scarcity, better lifestyle, proper sanitation facilities, educational and infrastructural facilities in the disconnected villages or those remote areas. The practice of witch-hunting has been mishandled for different reasons by anti-social components in remote and forest areas.

- Private returns for sexual urges, land and property snatching are some of the disorder patterns where such crimes occur in the form of mob justice and vigilantism which is an act of justice without any legal authorities.
- Access to food supplies in far flung areas where people cannot reach, proper hygiene and rural urban connectivity are guaranteed which will stop them from blindly believing in ojhas and unqualified doctors.
- The police personnel should take the witch-hunting crime seriously especially in the rural areas but not without their accountability are urgently required.
- There must be mass awareness campaigns programs that are expected to destroy the current myths about witches, black magic and witch hunting because there are some people who are highly educated still believe in such kind of superstitious practices but it is exceptional when faced practically and then believing it.
- The witch-hunting sensitive areas must be marked out specifically and with unique mapping with the end goal of sensitisation against the evil practices of the wide spread custom.
- May be many years back this practice was done in good faith but now the mindset of the people regarding the superstitious belief about the witches needs to change, develop gradually and need to accept the reality because nowadays it is used as business to cheat people, for this there should be proper training right from child education to adult education as it is the best booster to such kind of dark civilized practice.

The objective networks of the overcomers of witch-hunting ought to be made mindful of the lawful arrangements that exists and should check the infringement of witch-hunting. Additionally, there ought to be alleviation and remuneration for survivors of witch-hunting that should be given. The purposes for the act of witch-hunting is as yet predominant in India

because of absence of national enactment, absence of proof and giving of report, inadequate execution of set up rules. Subsequently, this issue can be solved by severe authorization just as usage of Anti-black magic law which will prevent witch-hunting practices, additionally by sharpening of police and government assistance office and foundation of NGO's who will work for the refinement purposes. As the number of witch-hunting cases increasingly common in backward areas to bring issues to light black magic can be included as a subject in school as it is important to change the point of view of society and accept over notion. Be that as it may, it is extremely hard to eliminate such believes prevalent from hundreds of years in the general public



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<sup>1</sup> Nidhi Bajaj, “Atrocities Witch Hunting Attacks in India: Need for Central Legislation” January 29 (2020)

<sup>2</sup> Mohammed Tarique Iqbal, “Witch-Hunting: A Case on Gender Violence In The Garb Of Vigilantism In India”

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## 2.4 Tips to Prevent Witch-Hunting Through Certain Laws

<sup>1</sup> Think Change India, Witch-Hunting still a normal occurrence in India, one person killed every three days (30 March, 2017)

<sup>2</sup> Mayong Morigaon, Assam, available at: <https://www.tourmyindia.com/states/assam/mayong.html> (Visited on March 29, 2020)

<sup>3</sup> Jatinga, Dima Hasao, Assam, available at: <http://www.assaminfo.com/tourist-places/29/jatinga.html> (Visited on April 2,2020)

<sup>4</sup> Home Affairs Correspondent, Coronavirus could cause rise in witchcraft and possession allegations in UK (1<sup>st</sup> May,2020 14:43)

<sup>5</sup> [BBC](#) news channel

<sup>6</sup> Editorial, “Witch-Hunting” The Times of India, May 18, 2020

<sup>7</sup> Editorial, “Witch-Hunting” News 18, 2014