



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice India

India – IND36660 – Khalistan Student
Federation – Hindu Student Federation

17 May 2010

1. Provide information on the Khalistan Student Movement.

No information was found on the Khalistan Student Movement or the Khalistan Student Federation. There is an All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF).

The UK Home Office has reported that the AISSF was founded in 1944. Its objectives were to promote Sikhism amongst Sikh college students and it was the first body to seek the formation of a separate Sikh homeland. Although it sought a separate Sikh homeland it did not fight for it until Sikh militancy erupted in 1981, when some of its members sided with the militants under Bhindranwale. The AISSF changed its name in 1991 to the Sikh Students Federation (SSF). The SSF has two factions – the main SSF faction and the Bitto faction, the latter faction being a militant one¹. The SSF works to the Sikh principles and often takes advice of the Jathedar, the head priest.²

2. Provide information on the Hindu Student Federation.

Only one reference was found on the Hindu Student Federation (HSF). The HSF was reported as taking part in a 2007 protest to relocate a Hindu temple in Ludhiana, Punjab.³

Sources indicate, however, that the students wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).⁴ The BJP is the political wing of the Sangh Parivar, a group of Hindu nationalist organisations which includes the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).⁵ Christophe Jaffrelot writes that the ABVP was founded in 1948 by RSS cadres and is the largest student union in India in terms of membership.⁶

¹ 'Harpal Singh Cheema; Rawinder Kaur, Petitioners, v. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Respondent', *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Vol. 16, No. 2, p.246 – Attachment 10.

² UK Home Office 2010, *Country of Origin Information Report: India*, 4 January, p.156 – Attachment 1.

³ 'Protest against relocation of Durga Mata Mandir' 2007, *ExpressIndia.com*, 7 November
<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/protest-against-relocation-of-durga-mata-mandir/236777/> – Accessed 14 May 2010 – Attachment 2.

⁴ 'About Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)' (undated), AndhraNews.net website
<http://www.andhranews.net/Features/Organizations/Akhil-Bharatiya-Vidyarthi-Parishad.asp> – Accessed 14 May 2010 – Attachment 3; Sayeed, Vikhar Ahmed 2009, 'Love and hate', *Frontline*, Vol. 26, Iss. 23, 7-20 November
<http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/fl2623/stories/20091120262302500.htm> – Accessed 14 May 2010 – Attachment 4; Bannerjee, Siddarth 2006, 'The politics of love in India', *The Link*, 14 February
<http://thelink.concordia.ca/features/06/02/13/2125221.shtml> – Accessed 18 August 2006 – Attachment 5.

⁵ Harrison, Tom et al. 2007, 'A political introduction to India', UK Parliament website, International Affairs and Defence Section – House of Commons Library, 2 May, p.49
<http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2007/rp07-041.pdf> – Accessed 11 October 2007 – Attachment 6.

⁶ Jaffrelot, Christophe (ed) 2007, 'Hindu Nationalism: A Reader', Princeton University Press website, 25 April
<http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/i8560.html> – Accessed 27 June 2007 – Attachment 7.

Human Rights Without Frontiers International reports that that ABVP has over 3,000 branches throughout India with nearly a million members.⁷

Human Rights Without Frontiers International also states that members of the ABVP have taken their nationalistic views to extremes.⁸ In this regard, a news article dated November 2008 reports that the ABVP had been active in Jalandhar in Punjab against Bangladeshi immigrants.⁹

Attachments

1. UK Home Office 2010, *Country of Origin Information Report: India*, 4 January.
2. 'Protest against relocation of Durga Mata Mandir' 2007, *ExpressIndia.com*, 7 November <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/protest-against-relocation-of-durga-mata-mandir/236777/> – Accessed 14 May 2010.
3. 'About Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)' (undated), *AndhraNews.net* website <http://www.andhranews.net/Features/Organizations/Akhil-Bharatiya-Vidyarthi-Parishad.asp> – Accessed 14 May 2010.
4. Sayeed, Vikhar Ahmed 2009, 'Love and hate', *Frontline*, Vol. 26, Iss. 23, 7-20 November <http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/fl2623/stories/20091120262302500.htm> – Accessed 14 May 2010.
5. Bannerjee, Siddarth 2006, 'The politics of love in India', *The Link*, 14 February <http://thelink.concordia.ca/features/06/02/13/2125221.shtml> – Accessed 18 August 2006. (CISNET India CX159712)
6. Harrison, Tom et al. 2007, 'A political introduction to India', UK Parliament website, International Affairs and Defence Section – House of Commons Library, 2 May <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2007/rp07-041.pdf> – Accessed 11 October 2007.
7. Jaffrelot, Christophe (ed) 2007, 'Hindu Nationalism: A Reader', Princeton University Press website, 25 April <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/i8560.html> – Accessed 27 June 2007.
8. 'India – Hindu Extremist Movements' 2009, Human Rights Without Frontiers International website http://hrwf.net/uploads/hindu_extremists.doc – Accessed 24 February 2009.
9. 'ABVP Launches a Movement against Bangladeshi Immigrants' 2008, *Asian News International*, 12 November. (FACTIVA)
10. 'Harpal Singh Cheema; Rawinder Kaur, Petitioners, v. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Respondent', *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Vol. 16, No. 2, pp.244–256. (MRT-RRT Library)

⁷ 'India – Hindu Extremist Movements' 2009, Human Rights Without Frontiers International website http://hrwf.net/uploads/hindu_extremists.doc – Accessed 24 February 2009 – Attachment 8.

⁸ 'India – Hindu Extremist Movements' 2009, Human Rights Without Frontiers International website http://hrwf.net/uploads/hindu_extremists.doc – Accessed 24 February 2009 – Attachment 8.

⁹ 'ABVP Launches a Movement against Bangladeshi Immigrants' 2008, *Asian News International*, 12 November – Attachment 9.