

2 BJP states win PM's praise

MINORITY REPORT Gujarat's put in place steps to prevent riots, MP implemented madrasa scheme

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NEW DELHI: Two BJP-governed states — Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh — have surprised many for robustly implementing Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's key measures for minorities, which are overseen by the minority affairs ministry.

In a Cabinet appraisal, chaired by Singh on Thursday to review the PM's 15-point national plan for minorities, Gujarat was found to have

put in place "standard operating procedures" to prevent and take action during communal riots, along with nine other states.

Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi has ticked in efficiency in governance and also roped in actor Amitabh Bachchan as state brand ambassador. Many view these steps as Modi's efforts to correct his negative image in the aftermath of the 2002 riots.

BJP-ruled Karnataka, prone to communal tension, too has

BRINGING IN THE CHANGES

- BJP-ruled Karnataka too has implemented the procedures
- Except Haryana, most Congress-ruled states, such as Maharashtra have not done so
- Madhya Pradesh, also a BJP-ruled state, has done a good job

implemented the procedures, as has Goa. However, most Congress-ruled states, such as Maharashtra have not, barring

in implementation of a Central scheme to modernise madrasas

- HRD ministry has cleared proposals worth ₹28.90 cr for 932 madrasas in three states: UP (₹20.19 cr), Jharkhand (₹4.97 cr) and Tripura (₹3.74 cr)

Haryana. Maharashtra's Nanded and Malegaon remain flash-points for sectarian clashes.

Madhya Pradesh, a BJP-

ruled state, has earned a good rating for implementing a Central initiative to "modernise" madrasas.

"The PM had called for quantifiable evidence on minority welfare. He expressed happiness over the minority affairs ministry's steps to implement his 15-point programme for minorities," an official said, requesting anonymity.

The "standard operating procedures" are aimed at both preventing and swiftly controlling riots by laying down a chain of

specific commands to various local authorities.

Not everyone thinks this is incredible. "In Gujarat, a distinction has to be made between paper work and ground work. Minorities there remain vulnerable," said human rights activist Shabnam Hashmi, who works extensively in the state.

Madhya Pradesh has been steadily upgrading madrasas under the 'The Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM)'.
