

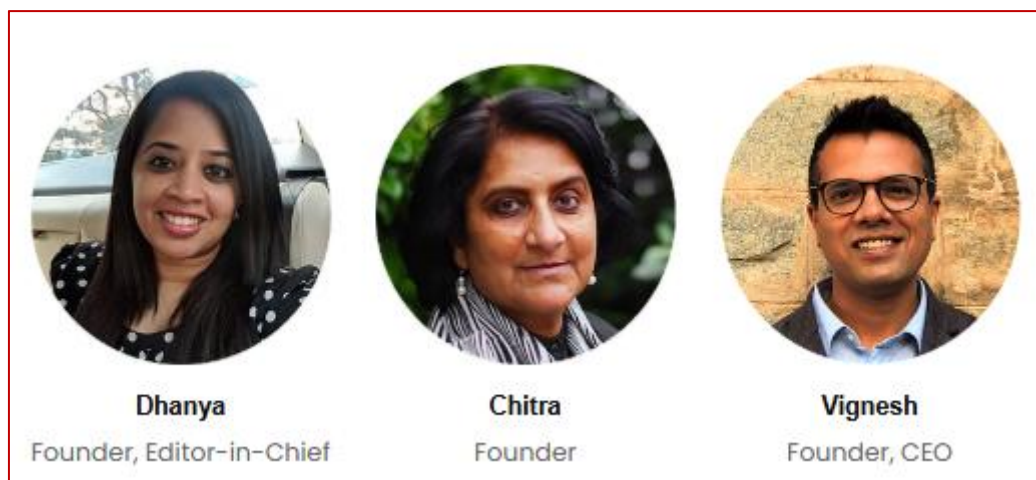
Profiling: 14 incidents of biased and misleading reporting by The News Minute (2022-2024)

This report analyzes **14 news incidents** published by The News Minute between **2022 and 2024**, highlighting patterns of biased or potentially misleading narratives.

On **August 23, 2025**, following the ongoing investigation and controversy in the Dharmasthala burial case, whistleblower **CN Chinnayya was arrested for perjury**, a mother retracted her missing-daughter claim, and a YouTuber spreading AI-generated misinformation was booked. The News Minute had repeatedly published false and biased reports, fueling misinformation.

The News Minute: Founders / Editorial Leadership

- The News Minute is a digital news platform reporting and writing on issues in India, with a specific focus on the 5 southern states. It was founded by Dhanya Rajendran, Chitra Subramaniam and Vignesh Vellore in [2014](#).
- Dhanya Rajendran serves as Editor-in-Chief and was previously at Times Now and The New Indian Express. Chitra Subramaniam, co-founder is an editorial adviser. Vignesh Vellore acts as CEO.



Company

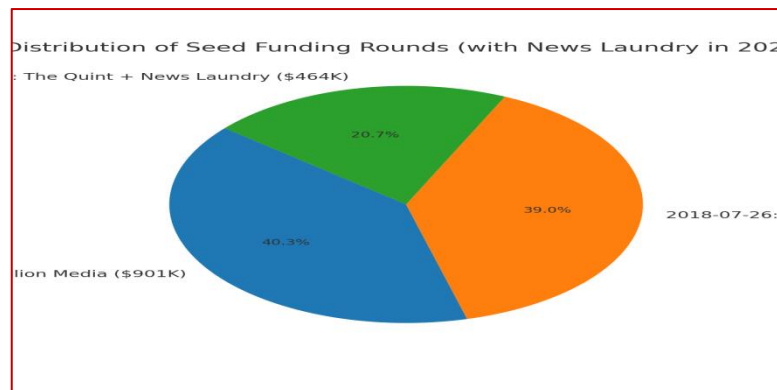
- The News Minute is operated by Spunklane Media Private Limited, headquartered in Bengaluru.

No. of Employees: 21 to [40](#)

Investor stake:

- Trade and corporate press releases in **November 2021** state that **Quint Digital Media entered (Raghav Bahl's group) definitive agreements to acquire a 47.92% stake** in Spunklane Media Pvt Ltd, which operates The News Minute, as part of a **Rs 24.5 crore multi-asset transaction**, signaling significant external investment.
- ✧ In April 2023, The News Minute and [Newslaundry](#) announced an alliance to collaborate on editorial projects and joint growth strategy, which can influence content distribution and co-productions but is not, by itself, a shareholding change

TheNewsMinute has 3 institutional investors including **The Quint, Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation** and **Newslaundry**. Raghav Bahl and 1 other are Angel Investors in TheNewsMinute.



1. The News Minute's biased coverage of the Kalakshetra controversy

Date: April 10, 2023

Place: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Claim: The News Minute reported the Kalakshetra sexual harassment case in a fair and balanced manner.

Fact:

- ✧ On December 23, 2022, Leela Samson, former Director of Kalakshetra Foundation, posted on Facebook alleging harassment by faculty member Hari Padman and dragged a student's name into it. **She later deleted the post and expressed regret.**
- ✧ The News Minute widely covered the **allegations** but ignored Samson's regret and FIR; between Mar-Apr 2023, it framed Kalakshetra as unsafe through exclusives and videos based largely on anonymous testimonies and NGO inputs with alleged internal links.
- ✧ TNM's claim that Kalakshetra was "isolated" and students were silenced in a meeting was later contested by alumni and witnesses, who said it was a routine POSH session led by a neutral lawyer.
- ✧ Later developments-no chargesheet filed, **students denying harassment**, and contradictions in NGO involvement- received little to no coverage from TNM.

Analysis: By foregrounding the allegations and omitting critical developments including Leela Samson's own regret post TNM shaped a narrative rather than presenting the full context truthfully.

[Swarajya](#) [The Commune](#) [The Indian Express](#) [The News Minute](#) [The News Minute](#)



2. Supreme Court ruling exposed gaps in TNM's Auroville coverage

Date: March 17, 2025

Place: Tamil Nadu

Claim: The News Minute (TNM) painted the Auroville Foundation as complicit in an [RSS/BJP](#) takeover, environmental violations, land scams, and suppression of dissent asserting these without legal or factual foundation.

Fact:

- ✧ On March 17, 2025, the Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark verdict (Auroville Foundation v. Natasha Storey and related cases), [dismissing](#) allegations of mismanagement, environmental violations, and political interference in Auroville.
- ✧ First, regarding governance, the Court unambiguously affirmed the statutory authority of Auroville's Governing Board (GB) under Section 11(3) of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988.
- ✧ Multiple petitions by activist Natasha Storey were dismissed. The SC imposed ₹50,000 costs for suppressing case history and abusing process.

Analysis: TNM's coverage highlighted allegations of political takeover, environmental violations, and land scams but the Supreme Court's ruling directly contradicts this narrative.

[The Commune](#) [Verdictum](#) [The News Minute](#) [The News Minute](#)



3. Unclaimed bodies, not mass murders: the truth TNM ignored in Dharmasthala

Date: July 16, 2025

Place: karnataka

Claim: The News Minute (TNM) reported in July 2025 that a "masked man" had exposed a mass burial cover-up in Dharmasthala, alleging hundreds of murders and clandestine burials linked to the Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade run temple. Its reporting implied that police and temple authorities were complicit in suppressing evidence, and framed the story as part of a pattern of past tragedies like the Sowjanya case and disappearances in the 1990s.

Fact:

- ✧ Dharmasthala Gram Panchayat Vice President Shrinivas Rao explained that unclaimed bodies often suicides and accidents near the Netravati River are formally recorded by police (UDR number, post-mortem, cause of death) before being buried by the Panchayat.
- ✧ Dharmasthala is a major pilgrimage hub with millions of visitors annually. It is a local belief that dying there grants spiritual liberation, similar to Kashi. High pilgrim footfall naturally results in more unclaimed deaths, **a fact TNM ignored.**
- ✧ Sujatha Bhat, whose allegations about a daughter "Ananya" missing from Dharmasthala in 2003 helped trigger the SIT probe, has now publicly [retracted](#) those claims in interviews, **saying the story was fabricated amid disputes and alleged external prompting.**

Analysis: TNM amplified the Ananya Bhatt angle as proof of a pattern in Dharmasthala. But the complainant retracted multiple times, admitted to fabricating details, and blamed external influence.

[The Commune](#) [Deccan Herald](#) [The Commune](#)



4. TNM's Keezhadi video spins secular vs Vedic binary, ignores Sangam texts and archaeological continuities

Date: June 29, 2025

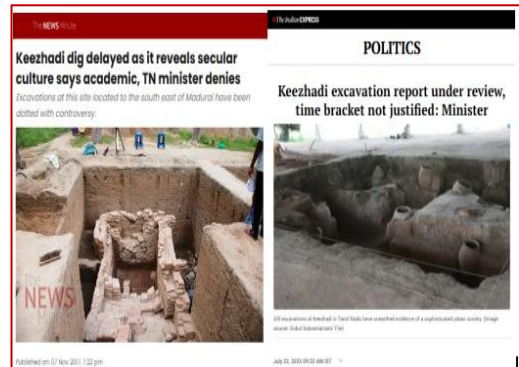
Place: Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Claim: The News Minute's 2025 video **claimed** that Keezhadi proves a secular Tamil civilisation, separate from Vedic traditions, that the ASI tried to suppress, and that it stands comparable to the **Harappan** civilisation.

Fact:

- ✧ No suppression, ASI only asked for proper evidence; current findings place Keezhadi at **3rd BCE**, not 6th BCE. Absence of temples doesn't prove absence of religion Sangam texts and nearby Adichanallur show Vedic-linked rituals and worship.
- ✧ The report claims there are "no religious structures" in Keezhadi, and proceeds to use that as a foundation to argue that Tamil civilisation was a secular civilization distinct from Vedic and deity-worship traditions.

Analysis: TNM's report projects ideological binaries on evolving archaeology framing Keezhadi as anti-Vedic and Harappan-like, while ignoring Sangam-era religiosity, Adichanallur parallels, and cultural continuities.



[The Commune](#) [The News Minute](#) [The Indian Express](#)

5. Biased reporting by TNM on Clarence High School bible instruction controversy

Date: April 25, 2022

Place: Karnataka

Claim: TNM reported that alumni of Clarence High School in Bengaluru condemned the Bible instruction controversy, stating it was "**not** a new practice," and suggested that Hindu organizations were communalizing the issue.

Fact:

- ✧ On April 25, 2022, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) directed the Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner to investigate allegations that Clarence High School was forcing Christian religious instruction on minor students, potentially violating Articles 25 and 28(3) of the Indian Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ✧ A Class 11 application asked parents to consent to Bible study, stating moral/spiritual instruction is via Bible. Karnataka's education minister said a notice would be sent, since introducing religious books into a school's academic curriculum violates the Karnataka Education Act's

Analysis:

- ✧ While TNM highlighted alumni support for the school's practices, it did not adequately address the legal concerns raised by the NCPCR and the Karnataka Education Minister.



[Times Of India](#) [The Commune](#)

6. TNM demonstrates selective reporting, anonymizing minority perpetrators while vilifying Hindus

Date: April 21, 2024

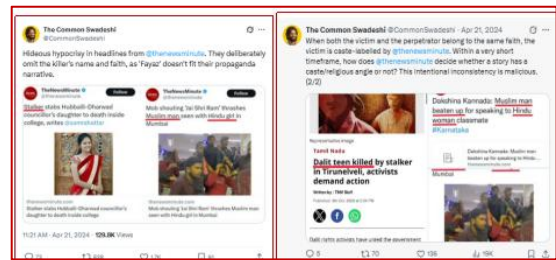
Place: NA

Claim: The News Minute reported crimes and incidents without explicitly mentioning the perpetrator's religion or background, presenting itself as neutral and following "journalistic ethics."

Fact:

- ✧ In the Karnataka Congress corporator's daughter murder case, TNM referred to the accused merely as a "["stalker."](#)" omitting his name and **Islam religion**, while other outlets reported both.
- ✧ Incidents involving Hindus students wearing saffron at a Telangana school, or men assaulted for chanting Jai [Shri Ram](#) in Bengaluru were either misrepresented, vilified, or ignored by TNM.

Analysis: TNM's reporting demonstrates selective coverage: it downplays or anonymizes crimes by minorities while portraying Hindus negatively, revealing bias despite its claims of journalistic neutrality.



[X Post](#) [X Post](#) [The Commune](#)

7. TNM amplifies Waqf Board claims while ignoring landowners' legal rights

Date: September 16, 2025

Place: Tamil Nadu

Claim: TNM [reported](#) that Thiruchendurai village in Tiruchirappalli belongs to the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board, citing Board records, the Chairman's statements, and Gazette notifications, while largely ignoring existing revenue documents held by the actual landowners.

Fact:

- ✧ The Tamil Nadu Waqf Board claims 389.03 acres in Thiruchendurai, referencing Gazette Notification 570 (June 27, 1956) and records in the Waqf Assets Management System. The Board's Chairman stated that land with temples can still be considered Waqf and used for public utility.
- ✧ Local landowners possess revenue documents patta, chitta, adangal, registration, encumbrance certificates proving their [ownership](#), which TNM did not report.

Analysis: TNM amplified the Waqf Board's claims and framed landowners seeking their rights as politically motivated, presenting a biased narrative while omitting critical legal and historical context.



[Hindustan Times](#) [The Commune](#) [The News Minute](#)

8. The News Minute's portrayal of Mohammad Zubair's Delhi Police custody emphasizes victimhood and comfort

Date: July 26, 2022

Place: Delhi

Claim: The News Minute portrayed Mohammad Zubair as a victim of police harassment during his Delhi Police custody, reporting that he was treated “well” and kept in an air-conditioned room.

Fact:

- ✧ Zubair, co-founder of Alt News, was arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly instigating riots and insulting Hindu faith through social media posts, including mocking Hindu deities.
- ✧ The original TNM article mentioned he was housed in an “air-conditioned room,” but the text was later edited to just “room,” suggesting a revision of the narrative.

Analysis: TNM's reporting emphasized comfort and victimhood, potentially shaping public perception of Zubair as mistreated.

[The Commune](#)



9. TNM's halals explainer ignores religious imposition and ethical concerns

Date: April 5, 2022

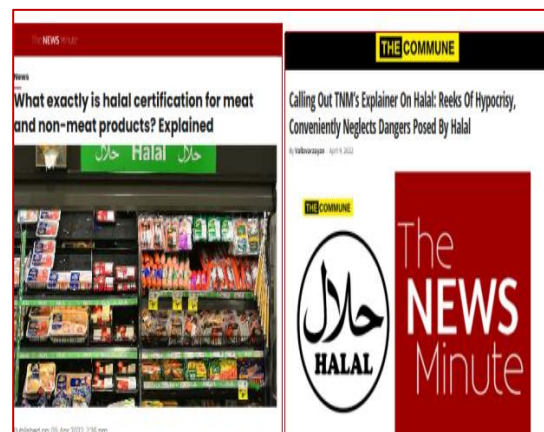
Claim: The News Minute (TNM) presented Halal certification as a hygienic and non-toxic food practice, portraying it as harmless and secular.

Fact:

- ✧ The article omitted that Halal requires slaughter by a Muslim male reciting prayers toward the Kaaba, which non-Muslims consuming the meat cannot avoid, and that the process involves a slower death than Jhatka, raising animal cruelty concerns.
- ✧ TNM overlooked how Halal certification affects native culinary diversity, leading to reduced options for **non-Muslims and the marginalization** of indigenous slaughtering and cooking traditions.

Analysis: TNM's report emphasizes the “secular” and hygienic aspects of Halal while ignoring its religious imposition on non-Muslims, ethical concerns, and cultural impact, presenting a one-sided narrative.

[The Commune](#) [The news Minute](#)



10. TNM's selective narrative on The Kerala Story ignores Malappuram's ground reality

Date: May 09, 2023

Place: Kerala

Claim: The News Minute (TNM) published an article suggesting that The Kerala Story exaggerates the issue of Love Jihad. Instead highlighted examples of communal harmony in Kerala's Malappuram district, citing the documentary Malappuram Beyond Tales. **As Muslim volunteers serving drinks at a Vijayadashami festival, Muslim farmers supplying lotus flowers for temples, A mosque distributing free rice to the local population.**

Fact:

- ✧ The ground reality of Malappuram tells a different and more complex story. Census data shows that while Hindus formed **57.8% of Malappuram's population in 1901** and Muslims only 26.6%, **by 2011 the demographics had completely reversed, with Muslims making up 70.24% and Hindus only 20.21%.**

Analysis: TNM ignored the history of violence, demographic decline of Hindus, and documented instances of radicalization creates a one-sided narrative that does not reflect the full picture of Kerala's social reality.



[The News Minute](#) [The Commune](#)

11. TNM hides identity in Shradha case and amplifies communal angle in Dakshina Kannada

Date: May 18, 2022

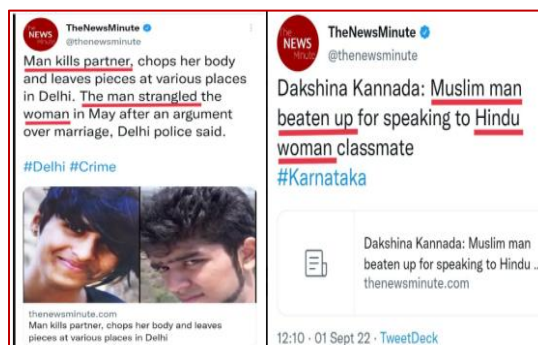
Place: Delhi

Claim: In May 2022, **Aftab brutally murdered his live-in partner Shradha Walkar** by chopping her into 35 pieces, but The News Minute (TNM) downplayed his identity while amplifying communal angles in unrelated minor incidents.

Fact:

- ✧ TNM's Editor-in-Chief Dhanya Rajendran shared the Indian Express version of the story, focusing on emotional abuse and toxic relationships, **without highlighting the religious identity of the accused.**
- ✧ TNM prominently covered a local case in Dakshina Kannada titled "Muslim man beaten up for speaking to Hindu woman classmate," linking it with communal undertones. Police, however, described it as a "love-related case" with no organizational involvement.

Analysis: By avoiding communal framing in cases where the accused belongs to a minority, yet amplifying communal angles where Muslims are portrayed as victims, TNM displays a selective editorial bias



[The Commune](#) [The News Minute X Post](#)

12. TNM dismisses Amit Shah's new criminal law bills as Hindi push

Date: August 11, 2023

Place: -

Claim: The News Minute (TNM) claims to be a neutral digital media platform, but its editorial choices reveal a consistent bias in favor of DMK and left-leaning narratives while downplaying or ignoring inconvenient facts.

Fact:

- ✧ When Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three new bills Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill to replace colonial-era laws, **TNM's Editor-in-Chief Dhanya Rajendran dismissed the move on social media as "Hindi imposition."**



13. TNM's selective narrative on electoral bonds

Claim: TNM's coverage of the electoral bonds issue is balanced and free from political bias.

Fact:

- ✧ The News Minute, have come under scrutiny for selectively focusing on donations received by the BJP while neglecting to highlight contributions to the I.N.D.I alliance parties in an attempt to peddle a favourable narrative to them. The Indian Express shows firms under investigation routed large sums to DMK and TMC too. For instance, Future Gaming contributed over ₹500 crore each to DMK and TMC, and less to BJP.



[The Commune](#)

14. TNM misleads on Balamurugan's suspension, skips facts behind Sitharaman letter

Date: 30 January 2024

Claim: The News Minute projected IRS officer B Balamurugan as a courageous whistleblower suspended for questioning Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and exposing the Enforcement Directorate's alleged misuse of power against Dalit farmers.

Fact:

- ✧ On 12 July 2021, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department under the DMK government referred a case to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) involving two farmers accused of killing wild buffaloes an offence under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ✧ IRS officer Balamurugan has a track record of protest letters and activism including opposing Hindi imposition, supporting Eelam Tamil causes, and even fasting over the Russia-Ukraine war leading to earlier disciplinary actions.
- ✧ His suspension before retirement was based on repeated violations of All India Service rules and not solely on the letter against Sitharaman.

Analysis: By omitting the Forest Department's role, FATF's mandate, and Balamurugan's history of repeated breaches of service conduct, The News Minute presented a skewed story.



[The news Minute](#) [The Commune](#)