

SOUTHASIA JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

India Persecution Tracker

2025 Overview

Advocacy of religious hatred

Table: Select list of anti-Muslim hate speeches by other elected BJP leaders (MPs and MLAs) (2025)

Name and title	Details
Giriraj Singh Union Minister of Textiles; BJP MP, Begusarai (Bihar)	<p>In October, during the Bihar Assembly election campaign, Singh delivered openly communal remarks targeting Muslims at a public rally in Arwal district. Referring to Muslims who had benefited from central government welfare schemes but did not vote for the BJP, Singh described them as '<i>namak haraams</i>' (betrayers) and stated that he did not want their votes.</p> <p>In December, Singh defended Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's act of forcibly removing a Muslim woman doctor's hijab during an official appointment ceremony in Patna. Singh publicly justified the act, questioned whether India was 'an Islamic country', and stated that the woman could either accept the appointment or 'go to hell'.</p>
Nitesh Rane Cabinet Minister, Maharashtra	<p>Rane, a prolific hate speech offender who was promoted as a Cabinet Minister following the BJP's state election victory in Maharashtra last year, continued to make anti-Muslim speeches throughout the period under review. He repeatedly referred to Muslims as 'green snakes' and other pejorative references. In late-February, after a local official overturned an illegal resolution by a village panchayat banning Muslim traders, Rane expressed his support for such a ban. In mid-February, a Muslim businessman in Sidhuburgh district alleged that his home and shops were illegally demolished by local authorities after receiving direct orders from Rane.</p> <p>In July, Rane made a series of Islamophobic remarks while speaking at the state legislature complex, questioning whether 'those with beards and skull caps' spoke Marathi and urging Hindus to 'show strength' in Muslim-majority areas such as Null Bazaar and Mohammad Ali Road. He further alleged that 'love jihad' and 'land jihad' were part of a conspiracy to 'turn the country into an Islamic state'. Days later, at a public event in Mumbai, Rane described Muslims as 'green snakes' that must be 'killed', comments widely condemned as openly inciting hatred and violence.</p> <p>In November, at public events in Dahanu and Nashik, Rane repeatedly characterised Muslims as 'jihadis' and accused them of engaging in 'vote jihad', 'land jihad', and 'love jihad', portraying Muslim neighbourhoods as hostile spaces and referring to Muslim-majority</p>

	<p>localities as ‘mini Pakistans’. He publicly threatened the use of bulldozers against madrasas and dargahs, warned Muslims to ‘leave the area’ if they opposed Hindu interests, and endorsed vigilante violence with statements implying that Muslims who ‘mess with Hindus’ would face collective retaliation. In Mira Road, Mumbai, in October, Rane mocked Muslims, issued explicit threats of violence, and framed Muslims as an internal enemy whose continued presence required ‘cracking down’ rather than coexistence.</p>
<p>Ashok Singhal Minister of Health and BJP MLA, Assam</p>	<p>In March, while speaking at a public meeting in Guwahati, Singhal stated that ‘Miya’ Muslims should be barred from operating shops during Hindu festivals, and encouraged his constituents to avoid mingling with them.</p> <p>In November, shortly after the Bihar Assembly Election results were announced, Singhal shared a photograph of a cauliflower field captioned ‘Bihar approves gobi (cauliflower) farming’—a euphemistic reference to the 1989 Bhagalpur pogrom, during which more than 100 Muslims were killed and buried in a cauliflower field to conceal the violence. The post was widely condemned as an endorsement of past communal mass violence and a warning directed at Muslims.</p>
<p>Suvendu Adhikari Leader of Opposition and BJP MLA, West Bengal</p>	<p>In March, while addressing reporters, Adhikari claimed that the BJP would physically pick and throw all Muslim elected MLAs of the Trinamool Congress (the governing party in West Bengal) out, if the BJP wins state elections in 2026.</p> <p>In July, Adhikari urged Bengalis not to visit ‘Muslim-majority’ areas of Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that tourists were being targeted based on religion. Speaking at a public event, he advised travellers to visit Jammu, Uttarakhand, or Himachal Pradesh instead, remarks widely condemned by opposition parties as an attempt to spread communal fear and stigmatise Kashmiri Muslims.</p> <p>In December, Adhikari escalated his rhetoric and conduct further. Speaking outside the Bangladeshi Deputy High Commission in Kolkata, he stated that India should ‘do to Bangladesh what Israel did to Gaza’, invoking Israel’s genocide in Gaza as a model of collective punishment and calling for similar action against a neighbouring Muslim-majority country.</p> <p>Earlier that month, Adhikari publicly felicitated and facilitated legal support for three men accused of assaulting Muslim food vendors in Kolkata for selling non-vegetarian food during a Hindu religious event, describing them as ‘Hindu warriors’ and asserting that his duty to ‘protect dharma’ superseded his constitutional role as an elected representative.</p>
<p>T. Raja Singh BJP MLA, Telangana</p>	<p>Singh, a prolific hate speech offender who was fielded as a BJP candidate in last year’s assembly elections despite previously being suspended from the party for anti-Muslim hate speech, continued to lead anti-Muslim hate rallies and processions throughout Q2 2025.</p> <p>At a Ram Navami rally in Hyderabad in early April, Singh was reported to have remarked, ‘We don’t need Hindus who pray to God. We need Hindus who kill terrorists, love jihadis, and those who do religious conversions.’</p>

	<p>In July, Singh claimed to have resigned from his membership in the party, apparently in opposition to the party’s newly-chosen state unit president.</p> <p>In October, at a Vijayadashami event in Indore (2 October), Singh demanded the announcement of bounties for killing those accused of ‘love jihad’ and religious conversion, called for street shootings, and urged Hindus to ‘take matters into their own hands’ if the state failed to act. He administered public oaths committing attendees to make Madhya Pradesh ‘jihadi-free’, boycott Muslim vendors, and confront alleged ‘jihadi networks’.</p> <p>In November, speaking at a public event in Mangrulnath, Singh urged arms training, called for the killing of ‘love jihad’ perpetrators, described churches and mosques as future targets, and encouraged attendees to acquire weapons. He also invoked historical and religious violence, called for the destruction of Islamic religious sites, and administered collective oaths pledging action against ‘love jihad’, ‘land jihad’, and religious conversions.</p>
<p>Nand Kishore Gurjar BJP MLA, Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p>In April, at a public event, Gurjar had administered a public oath calling on attendees to find and expel all those who ‘support Pakistan,’ and used religious slurs such as ‘topiwallas,’ ‘jihadis,’ and ‘Rohingya Bangladeshis’ in reference to Muslims.</p> <p>Gurjar threatened Muslim meat sellers ahead of Eid al-Adha in June. In a widely circulated video, he was seen abusing shopkeepers during a visit to local meat markets, accompanied by police, and declaring, ‘If he runs away, shoot him.’ Earlier, Gurjar had written to the police demanding a ban on meat sale and slaughter during Eid, bizarrely claiming that the practices were endangering Air Force operations.</p> <p>In September, Gurjar likened Bangladeshi and Rohingya Muslims to ‘swine’ during a public event in Baghpat, claiming they were ‘being settled here to ruin the country’.</p> <p>In November, Gurjar referred to Muslims as ‘pigs’ and issued explicit threats of violence. He declared that those accused of cow slaughter, ‘love jihad’, or religious conversions would be killed, repeated conspiracy theories portraying Muslims as criminal and anti-Hindu, and again urged Hindus to rear pigs to force Muslims out of the area.</p>
<p>Basanagouda Patil Yatnal BJP MLA, Karnataka</p>	<p>In August, Yatnal announced a cash reward of ₹500,000 (approximately US \$6,000) for Hindu men who marry Muslim women, framing it as a campaign to ‘protect Hindu youths’ and accusing the Congress-led state government of favouring minorities.</p>