

The pre-election hate machinery that turned Maharashtra into a communal battleground

In the months leading up to the Maharashtra elections, the state witnessed an unprecedented, organised, and deliberately escalating cascade of hate speeches—stretching from Jalgaon to Mumbai, Nanded to Sangli, Pune to Akola. What emerges from these events is not a scattered collection of extremist statements, but a coordinated political project that deployed fear, fabricated conspiracies, and overt calls for violence as core electoral strategy. Legislators, ministers, hard-line influencers, TV propagandists, religious fronts, and militant organisations appeared in full synchrony, invoking “love jihad,” “land jihad,” “vote jihad,” “population jihad,” and “Bangladeshi–Rohingya infiltrators” with a frequency that bordered on policy doctrine. Rallies openly glorified lynching and the demolition of mosques; speakers encouraged the use of weapons, threatened to “finish” Muslims, demanded economic boycotts, and framed ordinary citizens as enemies of the state. Maharashtra—historically complex, diverse, and politically competitive—was turned into a laboratory of controlled polarisation, where violent street rhetoric, manufactured demographic anxieties, weaponised rumours, and the institutional sanction of silence fused into a single narrative of communal emergency. These speeches did not merely precede the election—they prepared the emotional, political, and social terrain on which the election was to be fought.

While Maharashtra became a focussed stage for hate mongering in the lead up to the state polls in November 2024, the project of hate mobilisation had begun a few months after the abrupt change in the state government, in September 2022. The state was dotted with regular speeches and rallies by hitherto “unknown” formations like “Sakal Hindu Samaj” and others. Repeated complaints, [preventive](#) and [post-delivery](#) of the speech were filed before appropriate authorities by Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP). A citizens’ memorandum was also sent to the then chief minister, Eknath Shinde that may be read [here](#).

The CJP as part of its consistent campaign for constitutional accountability and against hate and division had complained about several or most of these speeches. Details of some of these complaints may be read [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

1. Location: Jalgaon, Maharashtra
Date: July 27
Pushpendra Kulshrestha delivers hate speech glorifying the violent demolition of Babri mosque.
<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/535>
2. Location: Chembur, Mumbai, Maharashtra
Date: August 3
BJP legislator Nitesh Rane delivers dangerous anti-Muslim speech while promoting conspiracy theories of “love jihad and land jihad.” “To protect our religion, we can pick up swords... Once we get on field, no one will be able to save you... If you kill one of

ours, we will make sure to kill two of yours,” he said. He was speaking at Vishwa Hindu Parishad-Bajrang Dal event.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/541>

3. Location: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

Date: August 10

Participants at the Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad rally issued open calls for gruesome violence during a protest against the violence faced by Hindus in Bangladesh. “If they kill Hindus there, we will also cut people here and throw them in drains.”

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/547>

4. Location: Hanuman Mandir, Dadar, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Date: August 11

Far-right Hindu leaders including Sanatan Sanstha’s Dhanashree Kelshikar, VD Savarkar’s grandson Ranjeet Savarkar & others deliver anti Muslim speeches. “Throw these Bangladeshi and Rohingya out. They are increasing Jihad in India and Hindus are unsafe,” said Kelshikar. “We have to look for solutions and if you want to learn how to use a rifle please come to swatantra veer savarkar smarak, there is a rifle training school there. We do not have another option. There is only way we can achieve Hindu Rashtra, first step is an economic boycott. Everything with halal certificate has to be boycotted. Ask every person you are trading with their name, that will give you an idea of whom to buy from. If that doesn't help just ask their religion. Only buy from Hindus.” These speeches were delivered at a protest organized by Hindu Janajagruti Samiti.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/548>

5. Nitesh Rane : Says If Hindus are targeted or killed in Bangladesh... Then hum bhi (India mein Muslims ko) chun chun ke mareng...

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C-TON1ISZsY/?igsh=bHIyOG9qYzAxbHV2>

6. This is a rally from Today from the financial capital of India with sloganeering calling for Genocide Muslims. However, this will not be shown in Mainstream media nor would anyone be arrested.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-aiGZfPkV-/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

7. Location: Gangakhed, Parbhani, Maharashtra

Date: August 29

BJP leader T Raja Singh delivers hate speech promoting bogus conspiracy of “love jihad” and urged state to ramp up bulldozer action to demolish Muslim properties.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/575>

8. Location: Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

Date: September 1

Hindu Sakal Morcha, Sakal Hindu Samaj, Ramgiri support Event, Nitesh Rane BJP legislator Nitesh Rane delivers a dangerous and dehumanizing speech against Muslims. He also promoted the conspiracy of "love jihad and land jihad." "This is a Hindu Rahstra. Ramgiri Maharaj can preach as he wants, and if you try to do anything, we will kill you like Insects," Rane said. "Danda uthao, Lande baghao (Pickup sticks and remove the Muslims)," chanted the event participants.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/577>

9. Location: Wadgaon Sheri, Pune, Maharashtra

Date: September 1

Sudharshan News owner Suresh Chavhanke delivers anti-Muslim hate speech at the Vishwa Hindu Parishad-Bajrang Dal event. "1 crore (10 million) Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Rohingyas and Afghan infiltrators are in Maharashtra who have one crore 37 lakhs acres of land..... Will you let Mumbai go to Muslims? Will you let Maharashtra go to Muslims? Will you let the country go to Muslims?..... We need population control laws asap. Anyway, 25 % of Muslims in India are infiltrators.... Pitches Janta NRC to stop Muslim infiltrators... Muslims will ruin your future..... Infiltrators leave our Maharashtra will be announced, and if the infiltrators still dont leave, we will start searching every house. If we remove all the infiltrators from Maharashtra, we can generate 40 lakh jobs for our people. We don't want any Bangladeshi here; once we remove the Bangladeshis, no one will have to beg in Maharashtra" he told the crowd.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/589>

10. Location: Sangli, Maharashtra

Date: September 19

BJP leader Nitesh Rane delivers anti-Muslim hate. He called Muslims "green snakes", called for boycott and threatened violence. "These jihadis keep weapons in their mosques, just waiting to attack us....If you guys dont stop these attacks,we will attack you as well.....Listen up jihadis, yes you jihadis who keep stashing weapons in mosques. Take off from work one friday and we will come finish you off. We know exactly where you all live..... You guys hear of a love jihad case, just go' fix" those people. You just give me a call before. Don't bother about the police I will make sure no cases are filed against you," Rane said at the Sakal Hindu Samaj event.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/615>

11. Location: Gangapur, Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Date: September 23

Sudharshan News owner Suresh Chvhanke delivers anti-Muslim hate speech. "When people are crossing over from Bangladesh, and they don't have the proper paperwork to make sure they are not Muslims, just check their underwear (for circumcision)....Fearmongers about Bangladeshis and Rohingyas in Aurangabad and claims 7700 are alone in Ganagapur... Targets 13 Masjids in the area, claims intelligence

agencies have told him all the maulvis in these mosques are Bangladeshis....If NRC is not implemented by October, I will start my movement called 'Ghupetiya bhagao, Maharashtra bachao.' Just give a missed call, we will kick out millions of infiltrators.....Spreads conspiracy of love jihad." <https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/621>

12. Location: Sadashiv Peth Pune, Maharashtra

Date: October 6

Dhananjay Desai uses anti-Muslim slurs to demonize Muslims and spread fear about the Waqf Board and "love jihad." Desai promotes the conspiracy of "vote jihad," alleging that Muslims aim to Islamize India by 2047. He demonizes Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, portraying them as a population threat unless the NRC is implemented.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DA51feqIRh5/>

13. Location: Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Thane West, Maharashtra

Date: October 19

Kajal Shingala delivered an anti-Muslim speech at the Rananragini Sammelan organized by Sakal Hindu Samaj. She promoted the conspiracy of Ghazwa-e-Hind and demonised Muslims for their religious shrines, while also criticising Christians for illegal conversions. Shingala generalised Indian Muslims as "jihadis" based on cultural differences and repeatedly propagated the conspiracy of "love jihad."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/643>

14. Location: Jalna, Maharashtra

Date: October 22

Far right influencer Harsha Thakur demonises Muslims and promotes the conspiracy theory of "love jihad," suggesting a coordinated effort against Hindus.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/717>

15. Location: Delgur, Nanded, Maharashtra

Date: October 29

Far-right influencer Harsha Thakur, while campaigning for independent Hindu nationalist candidate Dr. Virupaksha Maharaj, urged voters: "Don't vote for a candidate who gives employment to Muslims!" She also stated, "India will never work on Sharia law," and spread fear about the Waqf board. <https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/825>

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<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/825>

17. Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Date: October 30

At the ABP Maharashtra Summit, BJP MLA Nitesh Rane urged the Sakal Hindu Samaj to confront threats from Jihadis, Bangladeshis, and Rohingyas, claiming they aim to Islamize Maharashtra. He promoted conspiracy theories about "love jihad" and "land jihad," criticised Muslims for not recognizing India as a Hindu nation, and suggested that while discussions may work with educated Muslims, grassroots engagement requires a more aggressive approach, even implying the use of violence against those accused of "love jihad." <https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/710>

18. Location: Washim, Maharashtra

Date: November 6

Top themes of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's campaign speech at an election rally: Dog-whistling: "Not just Ayodhya, we are moving closer towards Kashi and Mathura! Aurangabad should be renamed to Sambhaji Nagar."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/754>

19. Location: Jalgaon, Maharashtra

Date: November 8

At a Janta NRC event, Sudarshan News founder Suresh Chavhanke expressed anti-Muslim sentiment, claiming that symbols like the moon and star do not belong to Islam but to the Muslim League, associating the true Islamic flag with extremist organizations. He called for the removal of "infiltrators" to "save Maharashtra" and promoted a conspiracy theory of "vote jihad."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/802>

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<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/754>

21. Location: Dhule, Maharashtra

Date: November 8

Top Themes from Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's Speech at an Election Rally: "During the last elections, these guys came up with a new strategy—'Vote Jihad.' 'Vote Jihad!' All you need to do is vote to counter this 'Vote Jihad' in Dhule."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/773>

22. Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Date: November 10

Top themes of Home Minister Amit Shah's campaign speech at an election rally: "The ulema has asked Congress for reservations for minorities, and they have accepted it

through Nana Patole. Are you in favour of taking reservations from SC/ST, OBC, Dalits, and Adivasis, only to give them to Muslims? You need to pay attention to this. Are you in favour of this?" "The Waqf is taking away land from temples and even entire villages in Karnataka. The Congress opposes this law, but that means tomorrow the Waqf can declare your assets as theirs." <https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/785>

23. Location: Malad, Maharashtra

Date: November 11

Top themes of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's campaign speech: "We will respond to the 'vote jihad' by initiating a 'vote Dharam yudh' against them. What kind of 'vote jihad' is happening here? This Ulema demands 100 billion rupees from the Waqf Board; they have also demanded that cases against Muslims accused in riots from 2012–2014 be withdrawn. The Congress has accepted these 17 demands, but we will never accept this." "People are threatening us by praising Aurangzeb. If a Muslim is patriotic, he will never consider that man a hero—he was an invader. Even dogs wouldn't urinate on his grave. Don't worry; we will soon hoist the tiranga over all of Pakistan." "The wolves have smelt blood. They know they got good results last time through 'vote jihad.' We were asleep then, and that's why we were deceived by their 'vote jihad,' but now we have woken up."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/807>

24. Location: Pathanpura, Mangrulpir, Maharashtra

Date: November 11

At a Sakal Hindu Samaj event, Sudarshan News founder Suresh Chavhanke gave a speech demonising Muslims. He claimed that Muslim candidates display images of historical figures like Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan, whom he derogatorily referred to as "Aurangayaa" and "Tipu Shaitan." He called for a swift "love jihad" law, urging the expulsion of "infiltrators" and advocating an approach inspired by Israel in dealing with enemies. Chavhanke also predicted that by 2030, Mumbai would have no Hindu legislators. He alleged widespread infiltration by Bangladeshis, Rohingyas, Nepalis, Afghans, and Pakistanis, attributing major crimes to these groups. He further spread the conspiracy of "vote jihad."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/829>

25. Location: Ghatkopar, Maharashtra

Date: November 12

Top themes from Home Minister Amit Shah's campaign speech: "We want to change the Waqf Board law. Just a few days ago, the Waqf took over an entire village in Karnataka, including houses, fields, and temples. Once we amend it, the Waqf won't be able to usurp your land. The opposition can keep opposing this, but Modi is going to change this law. The Waqf won't be able to grab land anymore."

"The Ulema met with Congress representatives and demanded a 10% reservation for Muslims. If Muslims are to be given reservation, then someone else's reservation must be

reduced. They will do this by reducing reservations for SC/ST, OBC, Dalit, and Adivasi communities and giving it to their 'vote bank.' Should reservation be reduced for SC/ST, OBC, Dalit, and Adivasis? As long as we are in power, we will never give minorities reservation."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/808>

26. Location: Borivali, Maharashtra

Date: November 12

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<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/810>

27. Location: Akola, Maharashtra

Date: November 12

Top themes of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's campaign speech at an election rally: "I have come here to tell you that only the BJP can end the problems of 'love jihad,' 'land jihad,' religious conversions, and 'PAN card jihad.' We send traitors to the nation to their death." "We suffered in Kashi and Mathura because we were divided." "For their vote bank, they will encourage 'love jihad' and 'land jihad.' They will allow them to throw stones on Ganesh Chaturthi and Ram Navami." "We will not tolerate any appeasement. If anyone waves the flag of Pakistan in India, then they should be sent to Pakistan." "If anyone dares to abuse or insult India, its great men, or threaten its unity, they will be sent on the yatra they deserve." "UP is very safe; even the women are safe. There is no 'love jihad' and 'land jihad.'"

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/814>

28. Location: Borgaon Manju, Akola, Maharashtra

Date: November 12

Sudarshan News founder Suresh Chavhanke delivers a hate-filled speech targeting Muslims, fearmongering about "infiltrators," advocating violence, and calling for anti-Muslim laws while promoting conspiracy theories such as 'vote jihad' and 'love jihad'.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/824>

29. Location: Akola, Maharashtra

Date: November 13

At a Shiv Prerna Yatra event, Sudarshan News founder Suresh Chavhanke delivers a communal speech urging voters to support candidates who promise anti-'love jihad' laws, a complete cow slaughter ban, and the expulsion of so-called infiltrators. He pits welfare

schemes against the "extermination of jihadis" and fearmongers about 10 crore "Afghani, Pakistani, and Rohingya infiltrators," advocating for their removal through a "Janta NRC."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/835>

30. Location: Achalpur, Amravati, Maharashtra.

Date: November 12

Top themes of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's campaign speech at an election rally: "They want to make Maharashtra the land of 'love jihad,' 'land jihad,' and 'PAN card jihad.'" "In UP, there is no 'love jihad' or 'land jihad.' As I have announced, if anyone dares to do these things, Yamraj will be waiting for them."

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/805>

31. Location: Akola, Maharashtra

Date: November 13

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<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/835>

32. Location: Hadgaon, Nanded, Maharashtra

Date: November 15

At a Dharam Sabha event, a far-right leader accused certain groups of destroying Hindu temples and attempting to erase Hindu culture. They propagated the conspiracy of 'Love Jihad,' claiming Hindu women are being "entrapped and impregnated with Afzal Khans and Aurangzebs." The leader further fear mongered about the Waqf Board, describing it as a greater threat than Pakistan.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/888>

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At a Sakal Hindu Samaj event, Sudarshan News founder Suresh Chavhanke gave a speech demonising Muslims. He claimed that Muslim candidates display images of historical figures like Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan, whom he derogatorily referred to as "Aurangayaa" and "Tipu Shaitan." He called for a swift "love jihad" law, urging the expulsion of "infiltrators" and advocating an approach inspired by Israel in dealing with enemies. Chavhanke also predicted that by 2030, Mumbai would have no Hindu legislators. He alleged widespread infiltration by Bangladeshis, Rohingyas, Nepalis, Afghans, and Pakistanis, attributing major crimes to these groups. He further spread the conspiracy of "vote jihad."

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<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/888>

35. Location: Dombivli, Maharashtra

Date: November 16

Hindu Rashtra Sena founder Dhananjay Desai spreads anti-Muslim hate, fearmongers about Islamization, and vilifies Christianity and Islam as threats to India.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/870>

36. Location: Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Date: November 16

During a Jagran Sabha event, BJP leader Madhvi Latha propagated the conspiracy of 'Land Jihad,' alleging that certain groups grab government land in various forms, including taking over village properties. She claimed Muslims stood as mere spectators during the Palghar Sadhu lynching and invoked Aurangzeb while using the provocative slogan "Sar Tan Se Juda." Latha concluded her speech by appealing to voters to support the BJP in the elections.

<https://t.me/hindutvawatchin/879>