



Association for
Protection of
Civil Rights

Violence Targeting Muslims Spiked During Bakra Eid

The Association for Protection of Civil Rights (APCR) documented a significant rise in incidents targeting Muslims in the period preceding and coinciding with Bakra Eid between **11 May and 29 May 2026**. The onset of this escalation can be traced to **11 May 2026**, when Bajrang Dal members intercepted transportation vehicles in Hyderabad on allegations of cattle transportation ahead of Bakra Eid. The spike then continued across multiple states until **29 May 2026**, when a Hindu resident in Meerut placed meat outside his own residence and proceeded to report it to the police in an attempt to trigger communal tensions by linking the meat to Eid-related sacrifice.

A total of **46 hate crimes occurred during the 19 days** of this period. **30 out of the 46** incidents linked directly to Bakra Eid, revealing a broader atmosphere of hostility surrounding Muslim religious observance during the festival, particularly concerning animal sacrifice, cattle transportation, and Eid prayers. This spike became very obvious when **22 hate crime incidents relating to Bakra Eid occurred in 5 days from 25 May to 29 May**; Bakra Eid was celebrated in the middle of these five days.

The concentration of incidents around cattle transportation, animal sacrifice, and Eid prayers indicates that Bakra Eid served as a focal point for communal polarisation in multiple states. The repeated involvement of organised groups, political actors, and local authorities raises concerns regarding the normalisation of restrictions and hostility directed towards Muslims during religious festivities. This spike suggests that the targeting of Muslims extended beyond isolated acts of violence and reflected a broader environment of intimidation surrounding the exercise of religious freedom.

Category of Violence	No. of Incidents
Intimidation/Harassment	32
Hate Speech	6
Physical Assault	3
Attack on Property	3
Violence Causing Death	2
Total	46



3 Muslims lost their lives during this period. One Muslim man died following alleged custodial torture in Gujarat, while 2 Muslim men were lynched by a mob in Assam over allegations of cattle theft—this lynching took place one day after the Assam CM spoke of zero tolerance towards cattle smuggling.

Several incidents involved organised mobilisation by members of Hindu nationalist organisations, local political leaders, and elected representatives who opposed Eid-related religious practices, including animal sacrifice and public prayers. For instance, BJP leaders successfully pressurized the BMC to revoke permission for animal sacrifice.

Targeting of Bakra Eid

The overwhelming majority **(30) of documented incidents (46) involved targeting of Muslims ahead of and during Bakra Eid**. Several state administrations imposed directives restricting Eid prayers, animal sacrifice, transportation of animals, and disposal of sacrificial remains. Public statements by political leaders further contributed to a climate of fear by portraying Muslim religious practices as a law-and-order concern.

Many incidents were documented in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and other states where Muslims faced restrictions, protests, threats, surveillance, or administrative pressure related to Eid observance.

Cow Vigilantism

A recurring context in the documented incidents was the targeting of Muslims under allegations of cattle transportation, cattle theft, cow slaughter, or cow smuggling. These incidents indicate the recurring use of cattle-related allegations as a trigger for violence against Muslims, which spiked during Eid.

In Haryana, 2 Muslim men were **assaulted and forced to drink cow urine** over allegations of cow smuggling. In Telangana, cow vigilantes **intercepted vehicles and vandalised a truck** despite discovering that it was transporting plywood rather than cattle. In Assam, **2 Muslim men were lynched** by a mob after being accused of cattle theft. In Gujarat, a Muslim man died following alleged **custodial torture** linked to accusations of cow slaughter.

Political Mobilisation

Several incidents involved elected representatives, political office-bearers, or organised groups mobilising opposition to Muslim religious practices on the eve of Bakra Eid. Documented actors included members of the BJP, Bajrang Dal, and Vishwa Hindu Parishad. In Maharashtra, multiple BJP

leaders and corporators publicly spoke against animal sacrifice, pressured municipal authorities, organised protests, and supported campaigns against keeping sacrificial animals in residential areas.

Restrictions on Eid Prayers

Multiple incidents involved opposition/restrictions of Eid prayers where political leaders and organisations objected to prayers on roads and public spaces. A protest was organised against the Eid prayers at Taj Mahal. In Kalyan, Hanuman Chalisa was recited while Muslims were offering Eid prayers. Public statements by political leaders also contributed to the stigmatisation of Muslim religious gatherings.

Manufactured Communal Tensions

Several incidents appeared intended to provoke communal tensions. These included slogan-shouting in Muslim localities, attempts to disrupt religious observances, and actions aimed at generating hostility around Eid practices. The Meerut incident represented one of the most striking examples, where a Hindu resident allegedly placed meat outside his own residence and subsequently filed a complaint in an apparent attempt to implicate Muslims and provoke communal unrest.

Detailed Incidents: The highlighted incidents in the table are those linked directly to Bakra Eid.

S. No	Date	Incident	State	Category of Violence	Source
1	11 May, 2026	Bajrang Dal members intercepted trucks and other vehicles to track cattle transportation in days ahead of Bakra Eid.	Hyderabad, Telangana	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://clarionindia.net/bajrang-dal-men-harass-cattle-transporters-in-hyderabad/
2	12 May, 2026	3 Muslim men assaulted over suspicion of transporting beef. The attack by cow vigilantes took place in presence of policemen, who attempted to intervene in the attack.	Siwan, Bihar	Physical Assault	https://www.siasat.com/bihar-cow-vigilante-group-assault-muslim-men-over-beef-transport-3471436/
3	12 May, 2026	Cow vigilantes assault and force 2 Muslim men to drink cow urine over allegations of cow smuggling.	Palwal, Haryana	Physical Assault	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/zeesalaam/muslim-news/haryana-cow-vigilantes-beat-two-youths-forced-shoe-licking-made-drink-urine-com-smuggling-allegation-in-palwal/3214747

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4	13 May, 2026	BJP MLA Ritesh Tiwari said that he will not work for Muslims.	West Bengal	Hate Speech	https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/ritesh-tiwari-muslim-voters-remark-bjp-mla-controversy-10687768/
5	13 May, 2026	Bulldozers demolish several homes in Muslim dominated Jaitpur area despite a statute shielding unauthorised colonies from demolition until the end of 2026.	Jaitpur, Delhi	Attack on Property	http://clarionindia.net/bulldozers-flatten-several-homes-in-muslim-majority-jaitpur-area-of-delhi/
6	13 May, 2026	State governments issues strict guidelines for Bakra Eid in UP, Delhi, MP, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and West Bengal. These guidelines restricts public sacrifice, usage of drains to dispose blood, and prayers on roads.		Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/calcutta-high-court-reserves-verdict-on-pleas-seeking-eid-al-adha-exemption-from-bengal-animal-slaughter-rules/cid/2161673#goog_rewarded https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/3922692-delhi-intensifies-animal-welfare-enforcement-for-eid-al-adha https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uttar-pradesh/cm-directs-heightened-vigilance-during-eid-ul-azha-reviews-security-in-sensitive-up-districts/article71020247.ece
7	14 May, 2026	2 Muslim managers labelled jihadists by a Hindu mob of Bajrang Dal.	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.deccanherald.com/india/uttarakhand/bajrang-dal-men-create-ruckus-at-footwear-outlet-in-dehradun-write-jihadi-on-managers-name-tags-4006166
8	16 May, 2026	Cow vigilantes stop a truck suspecting it to be illegally transporting cattle. Upon finding it to be carrying plywood, they vandalised the truck, injuring three Muslims.	Hyderabad, Telangana	Attack on Property	https://www.altnews.in/hyderabad-cow-vigilantes-raid-truck-find-plywood-instead-of-cattle-vandalize-it-anyway/
9	16 May, 2026	UP MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh gave incendiary remarks about India being a Hindu majority	Madurpur, Uttar Pradesh	Hate Speech	https://sanatanprabhat.org/english/172870.html https://news.abplive.com/news/india/up-mla-raj-bhaiya-all-muslims-were-hindus-weak-and-greedy-converted-to-islam-1844569

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10	16 May, 2026	JDU MLA Gopal Kumar Agarwal calls Muslims Bangaldeshis.	Thakurganj, Bihar	Hate Speech	https://www.thehawk.in/news/india/bihar-row-erupts-after-jd-u-mla-calls-shershahbadi-muslims-as-bangladeshis
11	16 May, 2026	Muslim woman harassed by a Hindu mob, and called Bangladeshi.	Assam	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the+siasat+daily+english-epaper-siaseten/muslim+woman+frisked+called+bangladeshi+on+assam+train-newsid-n713106372
12	18 May, 2026	UP CM asks Muslims to offer Eid prayers in shifts, warning of "another method" if Muslims do not comply.	Uttar Pradesh	Hate Speech	https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2026/5/27/naturally-scared-indias-muslims-denied-public-spaces-for-eid-prayers
13	20 May, 2026	Muslim man dies after he was taken into police custody, owing to custodial torture, on allegations of cow slaughter. They pulled his beard	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Violence Causing Death	https://thewire.in/communalism/gujarat-muslim-man-dies-after-alleged-custodial-torture-family-demands-investigation
14	21 May, 2026	A mob led by BJP MLA Karnail Singh demolished an under-construction madrasa, citing it to be built illegally on DDA land, while chanting Jai Shri Ram.	Pitampura, Delhi	Attack on Property	https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/bjp-mla-razes-structure-in-pitampura-says-site-of-illegal-madrasa-101779474930044.html
15	21 May, 2026	Hindu Raksha Dal, a Hindu group, staged a protest outside Darul Uloom Deoband, claiming an ancient Shiva temple exists beneath it	Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://ndtv.in/uttar-pradesh-news/hindu-raksha-dal-claims-shiv-temple-exists-beneath-deoband-mosque-darul-uloom-11533905
16	21 May, 2026	Assam CM propogated zero tolerance on cattle theft, cattle smuggling, and beef sale ahead of upcoming Bakra Eid.	Assam	Hate Speech	https://tripuratimes.com/ttimes/assam-govt-steps-up-crackdown-on-cattle-smuggling-856-arrested-37380.html/

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17	22 May, 2026	Police personnel shouted "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Matram" after rumours spread about Muslims holding Friday prayers inside Kamal mosque.	Dhar, Madhya Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://hindi.news18.com/news/madhya-pradesh/dhar-who-is-dhar-sp-sachin-sharma-bhojshala-verdict-security-alert-10499944.html https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2423744334767346
18	22 May, 2026	Two Muslim men lynched by a mob after they were suspected to be cattle thieves. The mob had intercepted three men, beat all of them. Two of the men died before the police reached the spot. The attack came one day after the Assam CM spoke of zero tolerance towards cattle smuggling in reference to Bakra Eid.	Sonitpur, Assam	Violence Causing Death	https://scroll.in/latest/1093045/assam-two-men-allegedly-lynched-by-mob-for-suspected-cattle-theft-in-sonitpur
19	22 May, 2026	BJP leader and UK CM Dham spoke against offering of namaz on road, proclaiming logistics of Char Dham Yatra would be prioritised	Uttarakhand	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://clarionindia.net/namaz-should-be-offered-at-designated-places-not-on-roads-ukhand-cm-dhami/
20	23 May, 2026	2 Muslim sellers attacked over their religiosity.	Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	Physical Assault	https://clarionindia.net/two-muslim-hawkers-assaulted-in-ups-muzaffarnagar-over-religious-identity/
21	23 May, 2026	Muslim vlogger arrested over a reel covering a non-veg restaurant for hurting sentiments.	Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agra/blogger-held-for-using-shiv-idol-reel-to-promote-eatery/articleshow/131288055.cms
22	24 May, 2026	RSS event demands de-listing of converted Christians and Muslims from ST list	Delhi	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://madhyamamonline.com/india/rss-event-demands-de-listing-of-converted-muslims-from-st-list-1522801

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23	24 May, 2026	Two female Muslim teachers booked for alleged religious conversion, over complaint of a "Hindu" activist and ABVP	Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/lucknow/2-govt-teachers-booked-for-attempting-to-convert-class-10-student-10706043/ https://theobserverpost.com/abvp-accuses-urdu-lecturer-of-harassment-forced-religious-practices-at-up-govt-college-in-kaushambi/
24	24 May, 2026	Two Muslim minors harassed for allegedly throwing cow remains in a river by Sunita Dayal, Ghaziabad mayor and former BJP vice-president.	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://thewire.in/communalism/uttar-pradesh-arrests-ghaziabad-mayor-video-children-meat-into-river
25	25 May, 2026	Maharashtra government launched special blockades and inspection drives ahead of Bakra Eid	Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.lokmatimes.com/mumbai/ahead-of-bakra-eid-maharashtra-govt-to-launch-special-blockades-and-vehicle-inspection-drive-from-may-25-to-28-a517/
26	25 May, 2026	Nitesh Rane, Maharashtra minister and BJP leader, spoke of virtual Eid	Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://news.abplive.com/cities/bakra-eid-2026-maharashtra-miister-bjp-leader-nitiesh-rane-sparka-row-1846024
27	26 May, 2026	BJP MLA Sanjay Upadhyay gave incendiary remarks about a Muslim family keeping 6 goats in Sumer Nagar society at Borivali, warning of bringing pigs in society as a retributive action	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Hate Speech	https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/bakre-ka-jawab-suvar-se-dena-hoga-bjp-mla-sanjay-upadhyay-sparks-political-row-amid-mira-road-tension-ahead-of-bakri-eid
28	26 May, 2026	Hindu residents oppose presence of animals for ritual sacrifice ahead of Bakra Eid at Poonam Society of Mira Road, Thane	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.mid-day.com/mumbai/mumbai-news/article/mumbai-clash-erupts-at-mira-road-society-over-goats-brought-for-eid-sacrifice-heavy-police-deployed-23632286

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29	26 May, 2026	Kirit Somaiya with other BJP leaders demanded a ban on ritual sacrifice of animal in public areas during Bakra Eid	Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.mid-day.com/mumbai/mumbai-news/article/mumbai-clash-erupts-at-mira-road-society-over-goats-brought-for-eid-sacrifice-heavy-police-deployed-23632286
30	26 May, 2026	Sakal Hindu Samaj and Bajrang Dal activists brought pig near a protest site at Mira Road following incendiary comments of BJP MLA Sanjay Upadhyay	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/bakre-ka-jawab-suvar-se-dena-hoga-bjp-mla-sanjay-upadhyay-sparks-political-row-amid-mira-road-tension-ahead-of-bakri-eid
31	27 May, 2026	BJP corporator Priti Satam said a shed for sacrificial animals has to be taken down in Dindoshi	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/mumbai/story/bakrid-permission-withdrawn-mumbai-societies-after-thane-scuffle-bjp-protests-2918129-2026-05-27
32	27 May, 2026	BJP corporator Priti Satam wrote to BMC demanding banning of animal sacrifice in Satelite Phase 2, Gokuldharm society of Goregaon	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.abplive.com/states/maharashtra/bakreid-2026-mumbai-bmc-revokes-bakra-qurbani-permission-goregaon-society-muslim-community-claims-bjp-pressure-ann-3136518
33	27 May, 2026	BJP leader Kirit Somaiya arrived at Ghatkopar's Sagar Park society, after Hindu protested possible slaughtering of goats, chanting slogans of Har Har Mahadev and Jai Shree Ram	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/mumbai/story/bakrid-permission-withdrawn-mumbai-societies-after-thane-scuffle-bjp-protests-2918129-2026-05-27
34	27 May, 2026	BMC asks Muslims to remove shed in Dindoshi following pressure from BJP leader Priti Satam	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/mumbai/story/bakrid-permission-withdrawn-mumbai-societies-after-thane-scuffle-bjp-protests-2918129-2026-05-27

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35	27 May, 2026	BMC cancels permission for animal sacrifice a night ahead of Bakra Eid in Satelite Phase 2, Gokuldharm society of Goregaon following pressure from BJP corporator	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/slaughter-facilities-available-in-1km-goregaon-societys-permission-for-goat-sacrifice-revoked/articleshow/131357878.cms
36	27 May, 2026	BMC cancels permission for animal sacrifice in Ghatkopar's Sagar Park society following pressure from BJP leaders	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/mumbai/story/bakrid-permission-withdrawn-mumbai-societies-after-thane-scuffle-bjp-protests-2918129-2026-05-27
37	27 May, 2026	Protests of Hindu residents against animal sacrifice escalated into violence late night after Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal members joined their protest at Mira Road, Thane	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/mumbai/story/bakrid-permission-withdrawn-mumbai-societies-after-thane-scuffle-bjp-protests-2918129-2026-05-27
38	27 May, 2026	Cattle market sealed days before Bakra Eid	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/lucknow/varanasi-bakra-market-closure-before-bakrid-goat-traders-protest-10711052/
39	28 May, 2026	APIYO, an indigenous organization known for targeting Muslims, called for a bandh on the eve of Eid.	Arunachal Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2026/05/29/icr-bandh-evokes-mixed-response/
40	28 May, 2026	BJP corporator Mahesh Patil detained over potential protest	Kalyan, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/rival-senas-hold-ghanta-naad-protests-at-kalyans-durgadi-fort-bjp-neta-detained/articleshow/131373625.cms
41	28 May, 2026	Hindus chanted Hanuman Chalisa while Muslims prayed Eid prayer.	Kalyan, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://www.abplive.com/videos/news/bakrid-clash-maharashtra-hanuman-chalisa-echoed-during-eid-prayers-3136908

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42	28 May, 2026	Police restricted ritual sacrifice of Bakra Eid in residential society premises	Kalyan, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/rival-senas-hold-ghanta-naad-protests-at-kalyans-durgadi-fort-bjp-neta-detained/articleshow/131373625.cms
43	28 May, 2026	Shiv Sena protests restrictions on entry to temple over Eid prayers	Kalyan, Maharashtra	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/rival-senas-hold-ghanta-naad-protests-at-kalyans-durgadi-fort-bjp-neta-detained/articleshow/131373625.cms
44	29 May, 2026	Hindu resident put a bag of meat outside his house to create communal tension.	Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://theobserverpost.com/meerut-man-puneet-placed-meat-outside-own-house-filed-false-complaint-to-trigger-communal-tension-police/
45	29 May, 2026	3 Hindus were arrested for chanting Jai Shree Ram in Muslim areas on the eve of Eid	Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://theobserverpost.com/muzaffarnagar-three-youths-arrested-for-chanting-jai-shri-ram-in-muslim-locality-granted-bail/
46	29 May, 2026	Hindu organization protested over Eid prayers at Taj Mahal	Agra, Uttar Pradesh	Intimidation/ Harassment	https://theobserverpost.com/agra-hindu-mahasabha-stages-protest-over-eid-prayers-at-taj-mahal-several-leaders-detained/