

## Who are the Pasmanda Muslims, the group that the BJP is reaching out to?

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### Who are the Pasmanda Muslims, the group that the BJP is reaching out to?

Recently, the Prime Minister urged to reach out deprived and downtrodden groups like Pasmanda Muslims in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.



[Ref: TOI]

### Who are Pasmanda Muslims?

- Persian word '**Pasmanda**', means the '**ones left behind**'.
- It is used to describe **depressed classes among the Muslims**.
- The term '**Pasmanda Muslims**' was first used in 1998 by Ali Anwar Ansari.
  - He founded the **Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz**.
- Pasmandas include Dalits as of now, but all Pasmandas are not Dalits.

### Muslim Society in India:

It consists of several status groups in three categories:

#### The Ashrafs (honourable ones)

- Ashrafs are Muslims who claim to have a **foreign pedigree**.
- They are descendants of Muslims from Arabia, Persia, Turkey, Afghanistan.

#### The Ajlafs (backward Muslims)

- Ajlafs are **middle-caste converts**, who were into ritually clean occupations.

#### The Arzals (Dalit Muslims)

- Arzals were first recorded in the 1901 census.
- They are from the lowest, **untouchable castes** like halalkhors, helas, lalbegis or dhobis.

### Mandal Commission:

- It brought the **non-Ashrafs, Ajlafs and Arzals** under OBC category.

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**Demographic Distribution:**

- As per **Sachar Committee**, number of OBC and SC/ST Muslims stood at 40% (all India 2004-05).

**Major Pasmada Demands Include:**

- Conducting a **caste census**.
- Restructuring of the existing reservation categories.
- State support for **artisans, craftsperson's, and agricultural labourers**.
- Representation in jobs, legislatures and government-run institutions.