



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SINDHOLOGY

Sindhis in Politics

Parliamentarians and legislators of India

PARLIAMENT

GUJARAT

MAHARASHTRA

OTHER STATES

THIS EDITION RECORDS

27 public representatives

From the Congress presidency of 1947 to the assemblies of today

DOCUMENTING SINDHI HERITAGE



ABOUT THIS RECORD

Sindhis in Politics

This record gathers the Sindhis of India who have held elected office, from the presidency of the Indian National Congress at the transfer of power in 1947 to legislators sitting today. It spans the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the Union Council of Ministers, and the legislative assemblies of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The entries are grouped by the house in which each person served, and within each section roughly by the period of office. Two patterns are visible in the grouping. In Gujarat, the Naroda constituency in Ahmedabad has returned Sindhi members across five decades of state elections. In Maharashtra, almost every entry comes from Ulhasnagar, the township built to resettle Sindhi refugees after 1947.

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

9 entries

GUJARAT

9 entries

MAHARASHTRA

7 entries

OTHER STATE LEGISLATURES

2 entries

A note on scope and neutrality

Inclusion here records Sindhi origin and public office; it is not an endorsement of any person, party or position, and members of every party appear alongside one another. Offices and terms are given as recorded at the time of compilation, so entries describing a sitting member should be checked against the current position of the house. This is a working record rather than an official register and is not claimed to be exhaustive; corrections and additional names are warmly invited.



SUMMARY

Roll of Office

#	NAME	HOUSE	OFFICE OR CONSTITUENCY
1	Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani	Parliament of India	President, Indian National Congress
2	Lal Krishna Advani	Parliament of India	Deputy Prime Minister of India
3	Ram Boolchand Jethmalani	Parliament of India	Union Minister of Law and Justice
4	Kewalram Ratanmal Malkani	Parliament of India	Rajya Sabha · Lt Governor, Puducherry
5	Narayandas Ratanmal Malkani	Parliament of India	Rajya Sabha (nominated), 1952–1962
6	Khushiram D. Jeswani	Parliament of India	Lok Sabha · Kheda
7	Shankar Lalwani	Parliament of India	Lok Sabha · Indore
8	Suresh Atalrai Keswani	Parliament of India	Rajya Sabha · Maharashtra
9	Lekhraj Bachani	Parliament of India	Rajya Sabha, 2000–2006
10	Dadi Nirmala Hassanand Gajwani	Gujarat	Deputy Speaker · Kutch
11	Parmanand Khattar	Gujarat	Minister of State · Jamnagar
12	Vishindas M. Motiani	Gujarat	Naroda · 1972
13	Thanwardas Khubchandani	Gujarat	Naroda · 1975
14	Ramchand Tahalram	Gujarat	Naroda · 1980
15	Gopaldas Bhojwani	Gujarat	Naroda · 1990, 1995
16	V. Tarachandani	Gujarat	Naroda
17	Maya Surendrakumar Kodnani	Gujarat	Minister of State · Naroda
18	Payal Manojkumar Kukrani	Gujarat	Naroda
19	Hashu Advani	Maharashtra	Cabinet Minister, Maharashtra
20	Parcharam Kewalram Ailani	Maharashtra	Ulhasnagar · 1957, 1962
21	Sanmukh Chuharmal Israni	Maharashtra	Ulhasnagar · 1960s–1970s
22	Sitaldas Khubchand Harchandani	Maharashtra	Ulhasnagar · 1978, 1985
23	Suresh Budharmal Kalani	Maharashtra	Ulhasnagar · four terms
24	Jyoti Kalani	Maharashtra	Ulhasnagar
25	Kumar Uttamchand Ailani	Maharashtra	Ulhasnagar · 2009, 2019, 2024
26	Vasudev Devnani	Other State Legislatures	Speaker, Rajasthan Assembly
27	Tulsidas Raichandani	Other State Legislatures	Gonda, Uttar Pradesh · 1991



I

Parliament of India

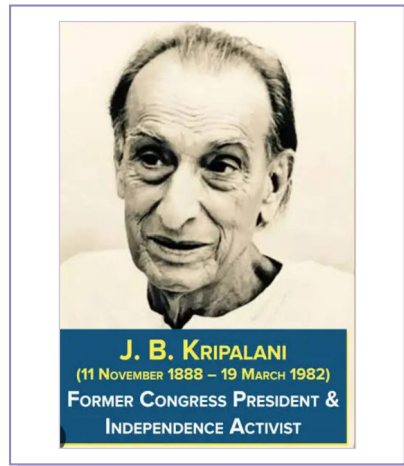
Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and those who held office in the Union Government or led national parties.

9 ENTRIES IN THIS SECTION

01 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani — Acharya Kripalani

11 November 1888 – 19 March 1982 · President of the Indian National Congress



Parliament of India

OFFICE

President, Indian National Congress

PARTY

Congress · Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party · Praja
Socialist · Swatantra

Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani (11 November 1888 – 19 March 1982), popularly known as Acharya Kripalani, was an Indian politician, noted particularly for holding the presidency of the Indian National Congress during the transfer of power in 1947, and the husband of Sucheta Kripalani.

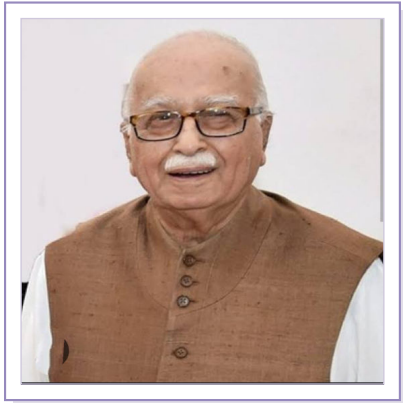
Kripalani was an environmentalist, mystic and independence activist who was long a Gandhian socialist. He founded the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party in 1951, which merged with the Socialist Party to form the Praja Socialist Party the following year. He joined the economically right-wing Swatantra Party later in life.



02 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Lal Krishna Advani

Born 8 November 1927 · 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India



Parliament of India

Bharat Ratna · 2024

OFFICE

Deputy Prime Minister of India, 2002–2004

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Lal Krishna Advani (born 8 November 1927) is an esteemed Indian statesman and one of the pivotal co-founders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Highly regarded as a monumental pillar of modern Indian politics, he served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004 under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

In recognition of his decades-long dedication and outstanding service to the nation, he was conferred with India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in March 2024.

03 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Ram Boolchand Jethmalani

14 September 1923 – 8 September 2019 • Union Minister of Law and Justice



Parliament of India

OFFICE

Union Minister of Law and Justice

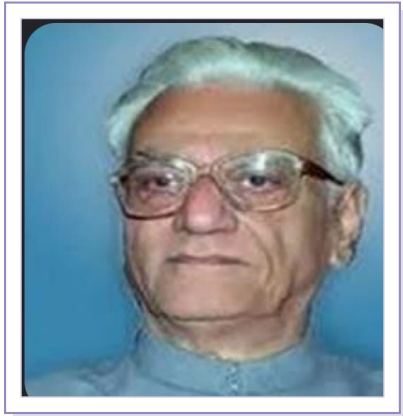
Ram Boolchand Jethmalani (14 September 1923 – 8 September 2019) was a legendary Indian defence lawyer and politician. Widely regarded as the finest criminal lawyer in India's legal history, he served as India's Union Minister of Law and Justice, Chairman of the Bar Council of India, and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Over a career spanning more than seven decades, Jethmalani earned a reputation as the “defender of indefensible cases”, fiercely advocating for fundamental rights, personal liberty and fair trial standards for everyone.

04 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Kewalram Ratanmal Malkani — K. R. Malkani

19 November 1921 – 27 October 2003 · Journalist, historian and parliamentarian



Parliament of India

OFFICE

Member, Rajya Sabha · Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

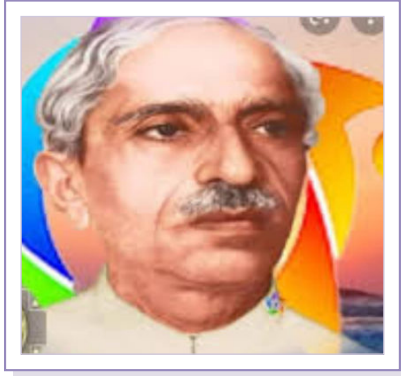
Kewalram Ratanmal Malkani (19 November 1921 – 27 October 2003) was an eminent Indian journalist, a prominent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue, historian, and politician associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He achieved the rare distinction of being the only individual to serve as chief editor of both major nationalist publications, *Organiser* and *Panchjanya*. Towards the end of his life he served as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha and as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

05 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Narayandas Ratanmal Malkani — N. R. Malkani

Freedom fighter, social worker and academic



Parliament of India

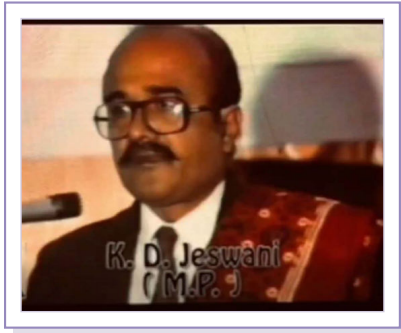
OFFICE

Nominated Member, Rajya Sabha, 1952–1962

Narayandas Ratanmal Malkani was a prominent Indian freedom fighter, social worker, academic and Nominated Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, where he served two terms from 1952 to 1962.

An intimate associate and confidant of Mahatma Gandhi, he dedicated his life to Gandhian constructive programmes, refugee rehabilitation and social welfare.

06 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Khushiram D. Jeswani — K. D. Jeswani*Member of the Lok Sabha for Kheda, elected 1991*

Parliament of India

OFFICE

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha · Kheda

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

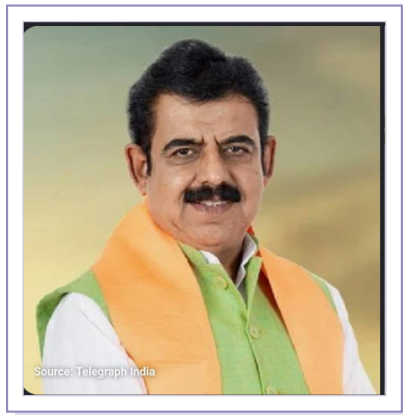
Dr. Khushiram D. Jeswani (K. D. Jeswani) is an Indian politician who represented the Kheda constituency in the Lok Sabha. Running as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, he won the parliamentary seat in the 1991 general elections.

K. D. Jeswani secured the Kheda seat for the BJP in 1991 — the first time it had been won by the party since independence, Kheda having been a Congress stronghold.

07 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Shankar Lalwani

Member of the Lok Sabha for Indore, elected 2019 and 2024



Parliament of India

OFFICE

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha · Indore

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Shankar Lalwani is an Indian politician serving as a Member of Parliament in the 18th Lok Sabha, representing the Indore constituency in Madhya Pradesh. He is a prominent member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and previously served in the 17th Lok Sabha after winning his first parliamentary election in 2019.

He holds the Indore seat, having retained it in the 18th Lok Sabha.

08 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Suresh Atalrai Keswani

Member of the Rajya Sabha for Maharashtra, elected 1996



Parliament of India

OFFICE

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha · Maharashtra

Suresh Keswani (Suresh Atalrai Keswani) is an Indian politician and a former Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India.

He represented the state of Maharashtra, having been elected to Parliament in April 1996.

09 • PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Lekhraj Bachani

3 July 1929 – 22 August 2014 • Lawyer and parliamentarian



Parliament of India

OFFICE

Member, Rajya Sabha, 2000–2006 • MLA, Gujarat, 1972–1995

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Lekhraj Bachani (3 July 1929 – 22 August 2014) was a prominent Indian politician, lawyer and senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Gujarat. Of Sindhi descent, he served as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha representing Gujarat from 2000 to 2006.

In the state assembly he served four consecutive terms as a Member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1995, before representing the BJP in the Rajya Sabha between 2000 and 2006.



II

Gujarat

Members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Seven of the nine entries in this section represented the Naroda constituency in Ahmedabad.

9 ENTRIES IN THIS SECTION

10 • GUJARAT

Dadi Nirmala Hassanand Gajwani

28 December 1928 – 21 January 2016 • Kutch



Gujarat

First woman MLA from Kutch

OFFICE

Deputy Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly

Dadi Nirmala Hassanand Gajwani (28 December 1928 – 21 January 2016) was a prominent Indian politician, pioneering social worker and educationist from the Kutch region of Gujarat.

She is widely revered as the first female Deputy Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and the first woman MLA elected from the Kutch district.

11 • GUJARAT

Parmanand Khattar

Jamnagar · elected 1995 and 1998

**Gujarat**

OFFICE

Minister of State for Urban Development, Gujarat

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Parmanand Khattar is a veteran politician from Gujarat who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the Jamnagar constituency. He is a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and resides in Jamnagar.

He served as the Minister of State for Urban Development in the Government of Gujarat under the Keshubhai Patel ministry. He won the Jamnagar assembly seat in the 1995 and 1998 Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections.



12 • GUJARAT

Vishindas M. Motiani — also spelt Matiani*Naroda, Ahmedabad · elected 1972*

Gujarat

OFFICE

Member, Gujarat Legislative Assembly · Naroda

PARTY

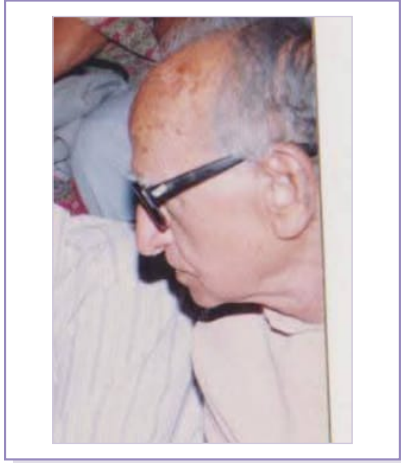
Indian National Congress

Vishindas M. Motiani (or Matiani) served as an MLA for the Naroda constituency in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, representing the Indian National Congress. He won the assembly seat during the 1972 Gujarat Legislative Assembly election.

13 • GUJARAT

Thanwardas Khubchandani

Naroda, Ahmedabad · elected 1975



Gujarat

OFFICE

Member, Gujarat Legislative Assembly · Naroda

Thanwardas Khubchandani was an Indian politician who was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly from the Naroda constituency in Ahmedabad. He won this assembly seat during the state elections held in 1975.



14 • GUJARAT

Ramchand Tahalram — often spelt Tahliram

Naroda, Ahmedabad · elected 1980

Gujarat

OFFICE

Member, Gujarat Legislative Assembly · Naroda

Ramchand Tahalram (often spelled Tahliram) was an Indian politician who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Gujarat. He represented the Naroda Assembly constituency in the Ahmedabad district, winning the 1980 Gujarat Legislative Assembly election.

15 • GUJARAT

Gopaldas Bhojwani

Naroda, Ahmedabad · elected 1990 and 1995



Gujarat

OFFICE

Member, Gujarat Legislative Assembly · Naroda

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Gopaldas Bhojwani is a prominent, senior politician from the Bharatiya Janata Party in Gujarat who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He represented the Naroda Assembly constituency in the Ahmedabad district.

He was elected twice to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, winning the state elections in 1990 and 1995.



16 • GUJARAT

V. Tarachandani

Naroda, Ahmedabad

Gujarat

OFFICE

Member, Gujarat Legislative Assembly · Naroda

V. Tarachandani is a former politician who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Gujarat, India. He represented the Naroda Assembly constituency in the Ahmedabad district.

17 • GUJARAT

Maya Surendrakumar Kodnani

Naroda, Ahmedabad • gynaecologist and former minister



Gujarat

OFFICE

Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Gujarat, 2007–2009

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Dr. Maya Surendrakumar Kodnani is an Indian gynaecologist and former politician affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party. She served as the Minister of State for Women and Child Development in Gujarat from 2007 to 2009 under the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi.



18 • GUJARAT

Payal Manojkumar Kukrani

Naroda, Ahmedabad



Gujarat

OFFICE

Member, Gujarat Legislative Assembly · Naroda

Dr. Payal Manojkumar Kukrani is the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the Naroda constituency in Ahmedabad.



III

Maharashtra

Members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, the great majority of them from Ulhasnagar — the township built for Sindhi refugees after 1947.

7 ENTRIES IN THIS SECTION

19 • MAHARASHTRA

Hashu Advani

1926–1995 • Educationist and cabinet minister



Maharashtra

Founder, Vivekanand Education Society

OFFICE

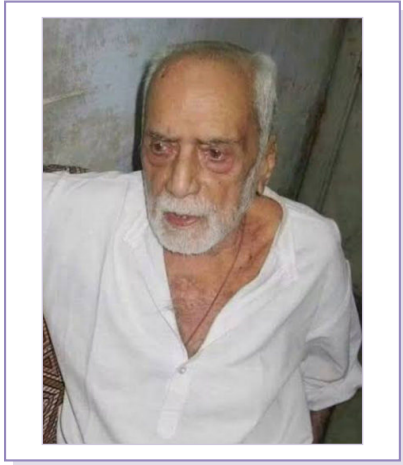
Cabinet Minister, Maharashtra • five-term MLA

Hashu Advani (1926–1995) was a prominent Indian politician, revered social worker, and the visionary educationist who founded Mumbai's Vivekanand Education Society (VES).

Known for his spotless character and selfless service, he dedicated his life to rehabilitating Sindhi refugees following the 1947 Partition, and went on to serve as a five-time Member of the Legislative Assembly and a cabinet minister in Maharashtra.

20 • MAHARASHTRA

Parcharam Kewalram Ailani — also known as Parcharam

Kewalram, or Vidyarthi*Ulhasnagar · 1957 and 1962 assembly elections*

Maharashtra

OFFICE

Ulhasnagar

PARTY

Independent · Socialist Party

Parcharam Kewalram Ailani, also known as Parcharam Kewalram or Vidyarthi, was an early independent and Socialist Party political figure in Ulhasnagar, dating back to the 1957 and 1962 assembly elections.



21 • MAHARASHTRA

Sanmukh Chuharmal Israni — often spelt Sanmukhdas Israni

Ulhasnagar · late 1960s and 1970s

Maharashtra

OFFICE

Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly ·
Ulhasnagar

PARTY

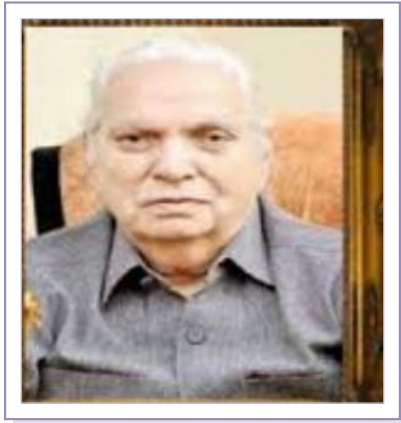
Indian National Congress

Sanmukh Chuharmal Israni (often spelled Sanmukhdas Israni) was an Indian politician and educationist who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Ulhasnagar Assembly constituency in Maharashtra.

Representing the Indian National Congress, he won consecutive assembly elections to serve during the late 1960s and 1970s.

22 • MAHARASHTRA

Sitaldas Khubchand Harchandani

Ulhasnagar · elected 1978 and 1985**M a h a r a s h t r a****OFFICE**Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly ·
Ulhasnagar**PARTY**

Janata Party · Bharatiya Janata Party

Sitaldas Khubchand Harchandani is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Ulhasnagar Assembly constituency in Maharashtra. He represented the constituency across multiple terms under different political parties.

In the 1978 election he won his first assembly term representing the Janata Party, securing 56.91 per cent of the vote share. In the 1985 election he successfully regained the seat, this time contesting as a candidate for the Bharatiya Janata Party.

23 • MAHARASHTRA

Suresh Budharmal Kalani — widely known as Pappu Kalani*Ulhasnagar · four-term MLA*

Maharashtra

OFFICE

Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly ·
Ulhasnagar

PARTY

Congress · Republican Party of India (A) ·
Independent

Suresh Budharmal Kalani, widely known as Pappu Kalani, began his political journey by winning the local council elections and became the president of the Ulhasnagar Municipal Council in 1986.

Kalani is a four-time Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Ulhasnagar constituency. He won elections representing different parties over the decades, including the Indian National Congress and the Republican Party of India (Athawale), as well as running as an independent candidate.

24 • MAHARASHTRA

Jyoti Kalani — the “Iron Lady” of Ulhasnagar*17 February 1951 – 18 April 2021 • Ulhasnagar*

Maharashtra

OFFICE

Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly ·
Ulhasnagar

Jyoti Kalani (17 February 1951 – 18 April 2021) was an Indian politician from Maharashtra who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the Ulhasnagar Assembly constituency.

Known locally as the “Iron Lady” of Ulhasnagar, she was a prominent political figure in the Thane district and the wife of the influential four-time MLA Suresh “Pappu” Kalani. She passed away from a heart attack at her residence at the age of 70.

25 • MAHARASHTRA

Kumar Uttamchand Ailani

Ulhasnagar · elected 2009, 2019 and 2024

Maharashtra

OFFICE

Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly ·
Ulhasnagar

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Kumar Uttamchand Ailani is an Indian politician and a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He serves as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, representing the Ulhasnagar constituency (Constituency 141) in the Thane district.

Kumar Ailani has established a strong political presence in Ulhasnagar, winning multiple state assembly elections. He was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly across three distinct terms: 2009–2014, 2019–2024, and re-elected in the 2024 state elections.



IV

Other State Legislatures

Sindhi legislators elected outside the principal centres of Sindhi settlement.

2 ENTRIES IN THIS SECTION

26 • OTHER STATE LEGISLATURES

Vasudev Devnani

Ajmer North, Rajasthan • Speaker since December 2023



Other State Legislatures

OFFICE

Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Vasudev Devnani is a prominent Indian politician from the Bharatiya Janata Party serving as the 18th Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. He represents the Ajmer North constituency as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

He has held the office of Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly since December 2023.

27 • OTHER STATE LEGISLATURES

Tulsidas Raichandani

Gonda, Uttar Pradesh • elected 1991



Other State Legislatures

OFFICE

Member, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly ·
Gonda

PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party

Tulsidas Raichandani was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Gonda, Uttar Pradesh.

He came in touch with the RSS and was also District BJP President for eleven years. He became an MLA for the BJP in 1991, in spite of there being very few Sindhi voters in Gonda.

At the age of 26, in 1962, he came close to Atal Bihari Vajpayee during Vajpayee's second election at Balrampur, and campaigned for him.



COLOPHON

About this Compilation

Sindhis in Politics is published under the imprint of the Indian Institute of Sindhology as part of its work documenting Sindhi heritage. The biographical material is drawn from published accounts and public electoral records.

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SOURCES	Published biographical accounts and public electoral records.
OFFICES SHOWN	As recorded at the time of compilation.
CORRECTIONS	Additions and corrections are invited for future editions.