

12. RELIGION & SECTARIANISM

Research and historical data show that ***religious extremism and sectarian conflicts*** have severely ***damaged Pakistan's economy, discouraged foreign investment, disrupted social cohesion, and strained public infrastructure.***

Referring to the **EXPRESS TRIBUNE** dated 22nd August 2025; while collecting information as part of the population census, it was disclosed by PMLN's Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal before the Parliament and media, that:

".....that there were 600,000 mosques in Pakistan, and over 36,000 religious seminaries, predominantly in Punjab. However, there were only 23,000 factories in addition to 643,000 small production units".

- ***600,000 mosques and 36000 religious training schools belong to various SECTS & SUB-SECTS or Fiqhi Schools of thought who often label the other Sects as 'Kafir' but their sources of income and details of expenditure are generally never audited by any authentic outsider firm or organization.***

- **Great Loss:** Violence and instability linked to extremist groups have ***cost the country billions of dollars*** and diverted vital funds toward security instead of health, education, and growth.
- *Foreign and domestic investors often avoid unstable environments, leading to lower industrial output and fewer jobs.* Extremism damages social harmony, harms educational standards, and threatens the safety of citizens and minority communities.
- ***Real progress relies on stable governance, rule of law, and sound economic policies. Investment in modern education, technology, and public health builds a stronger nation; religious conflicts and sectarian clashes takes societies and countries back into dark ages.***
- **Does Pakistan allow religious freedom?** On paper, Pakistan's constitution allows religious freedom, but in real life, the government and laws rigorously limit it. The country has Islam as its state religion, and all rights to worship are limited by rules on public order; some individuals & NGOs are also named for ***'LOOT-MAAR in the name of Islam'***.

The whole world knows the fact that nature & title of the ***Pakistan's Constitution is ISLAMIC REPUBLIC*** but in actual sense ***IT'S NEITHER ISLAMIC NOR REPUBLIC***; the Looter Rulers are making fool of the nation since 1973 – a big span of 53 years.

BUT, it also remains a fact that:

All of us always pass judgements on others [or the world]. ***The eyes that see actually see the scene.*** No country will identify itself as fanatic. It's always other countries who label according to their interests.

Following the collective data analytic approach, please remember ***1000 lies can raise a noise storm but it can't kill the voice of a single truth.*** Truth triumphs and later generations & scholars evaluate history better.

Fanaticism is actually a state of mind and is used as a tool. IT HAS BEEN COUPLED WITH RELIGION BY SOME UN-SCRUPULOUS ELEMENTS. These fanatics do not know much about Islam. They have joined them as a work force. They are paid people. They are well fed by their masters. They are trained to commit suicide as and when ordered to do so. *No law has been able to curb such tendency because lot of money and resources are pumped in.*

Solution lies within religion itself; implement the religious norms judiciously and effectively. Actions taken should be across the board.

FOR THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN PAKISTAN,
Starting Steps will be:

The STATE doesn't NEED to confront them directly. Only take the 1st step NOW.

- Issue immediate prohibition orders via the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority [PEMRA] to ***ban live coverage, talk show appearances, and re-broadcasts of speeches, their conventions, their calls for Strikes, Dharnas (sit-ins) & Hartaals from ALL religious parties and Sects or Groups*** – without any foe or favour for any.
- By implementing an effective media blackout for religious Heads, Imams & Ulema in Pakistan will involve ***enforcing regulatory frameworks through bodies like FIA & Police's Regional Special Branches (aiding PEMRA); cutting off live broadcasts of inflammatory speeches, restricting digital streaming channels, and coordinating with telecommunication authorities to limit the viral spread of sectarian content.***
- Extend complete ***coverage bans to front organizations or affiliated entities of the BANNED or PRO-SCRIBED religious groups*** to prevent their entry to the media & electronic platforms.
- Coordinate with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) ***to restrict access or throttle bandwidth for specific live-streaming feeds*** and social media handles during specific period till Pakistan's ECONOMY stands on its feet.
- Formal takedown requests be made to ***major firms / platforms (YouTube, Facebook, X, Tik-Tok, RED-DIT, Linkedin etc) to remove specific video clips, sermon excerpts, or audio messages*** that violate

Pakistan's national guidelines against inciting public disorder.

- **Monitor Proxy Channels:** Track and block decentralized secondary channels or proxy accounts used by radical figures to bypass mainstream media restrictions.
- ***Mainstream news networks be asked to sign and implement a unified editorial code*** that deprioritizes sensationalist religious debates and unverified clerical decrees.
- State and private media channels be directed to ***replace RELIGIOUS & SECTARIAN airtime with inclusive educational, cultural, or socio-economic programs*** to reduce the public footprint of polarizing figures.
- ***Ulema, Imams, religious front-runners, Politico-Islamic leaders, Senators, MNAs & MPAs in the Senate, Parliament or respective Assemblies*** belonging to any party including of JUI(F), Jamaat e Islami [JI], NFJ, Sunni Tehrik etc will **NOT be TELEVISED** or shown or ***referred in PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA.***
- ***NO NEWS or IMAGE, PUBLIC SPEECH, AND THEIR DISCUSSIONS & OPINIONS in the Senate or Parliament*** about the ABOVE MENTIONED Religious people, ladies & gents both, will be displayed before the general populace by any way or means.
- NO RELIGIOUS PROCESSION ***including of 10th Muharram Jaloos and Eid Milaad-un-Nabi***, Public or

Private MEETING, their Welcome or Departure or any other activity will be covered by PRESS or Electronic Media – will NOT become part of mainstream Press or Electronic Media news.

- ***Religious PROGRAMS at all general and News TV Channels will be curtailed*** with immediate effect. NO Religious *Alam e Deen* representing any particular Fiqh, Sect or Branch or School of Thought will be called on TVs or in MEDIA Discussions.

A GIANT & ARDUOUS TASK

Confining religion to homes, mosques, and madrasas in Pakistan proposes a radical shift toward worldly public space.

Implementing or addressing such a paradigm involves complex legal, social, and political adjustments to balance public order and deeply rooted cultural & traditional norms.

BUT someone has to take the 1st step if you DON'T WANT to see PAKISTANI PASSPORT at no:4 from bottom (which is at this position since TWO DECADES at least)

Governance Strategies:

- **Nothing to do with the Constitution** as the government is not hindering any religious practices, IBADAAT or their communal gatherings ***BUT only their 'access to media' is controlled for general well-being of the public.***
- As we've already settled under JUDICIAL pages before that CrPC (1898), PPC (1860), CPC (1908) etc are NOT to be followed or practiced anymore, so ***BLASPHEMY SECTIONS & sub-sections in PPC have already become in-effective till the parliament raises NEW PPC.***
- ***Various types of 'accesses to media' or 'media entries' are not mandated in constitution – it is government's suitability according to the circumstances prevailing in particular situations.***
- ***NO DISPLAY of BILL-BOARDS or ADVERTISING BANNERS at public places having RELIGIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS or PROGRAMS or NOTICES etc.***
District Admin will remove religious rhetoric and symbols from state-run civic institutions, public offices and Community places.
- ***NO PUBLIC SPACES [except for Eid Prayers] or ROUTES ALLOCATIONS for sectarian or religious mobilizations*** – they will use their own open or covered premises where they are based in routine life.

Educational and Social Reforms

- The government and its departments will ensure materialistic & worldly, ***uniform public schooling across the country*** without interfering in the respective theological training patterns in their own registered mad-rasas.
- ***Every mosque and madrassa, big or small, in cit-ies or villages, WILL RUN NATIONAL SCHOOLS at their premises, leading towards NATIONAL CER-TIFICATES just like FORMAL SCHOOLING in the country.***
- ***These SCHOOLS will run, controlled and financed by the respective provincial or federal govern-ments, under Directorates of Education in usual way without interference into MOSQUE's day-to-day affairs or their particular schools of thought.***
- **Such SCHOOLS will run from 8.30am till 3.30pm in which:**
 - *ZUHR PRAYER' will be done as usual. The stu-dents and / or teachers MAY ALSO ATTEND it.*
[EGYPT's **JAMIA AL-AZHAR MODEL**]
 - *The students will be given FREE LUNCH at that school. The respective DIRECTORATES will make proper arrangements of KITCHENS, COOKING and food-material as is practiced in most nations of the world.*
 - **[The EXPENDITURE on children's meals will be met from Benazir Income Support Pro-gram (BISP). In BISP, the money being**

paid to the FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN in respective areas will be discontinued and funds will be earmarked for the children who will attend schooling.]

- **Financial Transparency:** The FUNDING STREAMS, SOURCES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE will be MONITERED AND AUDITED for all religious entities and seminaries to prevent foreign or militant interference.
- **Social Integration:** The management of that mosque or madrassa, concerned MNA, MPA and Local Body Reps will take keen interest to make use of the mosques' premises as LOCAL COMMUNITY PLACES to enhance social cohesion and solidity amongst the local residents – without falling in POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.
[MADINA's **NABVI MOSQUE MODEL**]

Governments will provide robust public social safety nets so that underprivileged, needy and disadvantaged communities do not rely solely on religious networks for basic lodging and food.