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A Modern Approach Of Religion And Religious Tolerance: A Philosophical Discourse On Socio Religious Observation In India And His Neighbour Countries.

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• **ABSTRACT:** India is secular country and source of knowledge , Values, Norms of society should have the ground of this i.e. secularism. And Religion Has revealed it self as Ideology system of thoughts located in the domain of sacred. But at present India we can observe that, Religion continuously has been customising for Build a new form of that by the force of politics. I named it Religious modernism. That's mean it is a New Replica of the old Version of Architects. And what is the impact of this on society, is it all over negative weather positive, I discussed in my paper. Even not only that, I also discussed about how India and his neighbour countries especially Bangladesh and Pakistan are Constantly doing Support and Spread Religious Intolerance in world. And is Religious Tolerances that things that we need in this Situation? In India we can see the Many kind of impact of the Religious Modernism and Political Exclusivism . And not only that at the present time it is being caused of Mass-hysteria . So for this reason I also discussed what is centre, ground, and future of this social phenomena. And which sphere of society is mostly targeted and influenced by this. But in spite of this there are Few atheists and I also tried to lightened the roll of them in a democratic world. In this present world we can see that Religion is being driven by politics and politics is being Navigated by Religion. This Customised form of religion can become a blessing for any country, and what is the present religious Scenario in India I also discussed about it. And at last I have tried to Make it clear that can we say that Being Spiritual is identical with being religious? how India is shifting towards a new Religious order where religion is beyond of Spiritual property.

• **INTRODUCTION:** If we notice carefully then we will observe that in the present time religion and politics have it's own areas and some share areas between each other. Especially in India we see an inevitable relationship between politics and religion. Not only that if look at the past ages we will see the same picture. Constitutionally India is a secular country but religion always stays under the spotlight. And this is being conducted by nun other than politics. Or more better to say political parties. Now the present from of religion is a fusion of religion and politics. And the result of this fusion is none other than religious Intolerance. India is now in a dogmatic situation . No doubt that in India Religion has

very rich and precious cultural heritage. But if a country conducts his Every Rules For the sack of religion then it can be caused big problems very badly. It should not be happed with India. According to “Global Terrorism Index 2025” India is situated in rank 14 ‘score 6411’ . Which is concerning point right now. And there are an Issues , which is The issues of sexism. Although this is not my topic of discussion in this article. But still problem of society especially for youth generation . Whatever , my aim here is to projection of socio religious and politics context.

• **KEYWORDS** : Religious modernism, Secularism, Intolerance, Acceptance , Mass hysteria, Politics Religion, Pseudo Religion.

• **RECENT INCIDENT AND HIS PHILOSOPHICAL GROUND** : Now I will maintain two recent incident where one is regarding India, and one is regarding India’s Neighbour country Bangladesh.

In the year 2025 April 22, pahalgam attack , It was done by Pakistani Islamic terrorist. It was 2nd most dangerous and Inhuman attack after 2008 Mumbai attack, though a Christian tourist and a local Muslim who tried to snatch the Arms from the terrorist also included in the victim list . The terrorist Separated the men and asked about there Religion before shoot the Hindu and Christian tourist. The Terrorists asked some tourists to recite Islamic Kolyma to Identify Non Muslim. Several of the Tourist were newly weds, and Husbands were shoot in front of them families. Here point to be noted They asked to ‘recite Kolyma’.

Second incident happened with Bangladesh, in this same year 2025 , A Hindu Citizen Dipu Chandra Das was lynched and his body Burned by Kerosene in front of the public, and people were recoding It By there smartphones. He was accused by some fellow to Disrespected Islam and Muhammad, but Irony is that, it was not proven. And no body wanted to investigate the fact, without any assurance and Prove hellish killing was started by Mass of people.

Now what is the Philosophical Basis of These tow devilish incident? If we analyse this two recent incidents, we will see some common factors,

1. Both are driven by Extreme communalisms and blind religious fanaticism.
2. In both cases people of one religion are attacking people of one another.
3. Relatively weaker sections are being oppressed by either stronger or either major people .
4. There are concept of a ‘Made up ‘ God and the rules built around it .
5. Most dangerous and Concerning is The lack of fair judgement.
6. In both cases Attackers are Brain washed and controlled by so call religious leaders those are politically religiously biased.

First incident is no doubt politically influenced attack, here religion is just a means but to win in political war is the end . here we can say religion and politics are inevitably connected each other. This is the ancient form of religion.

In this case, some one can say religion didn’t say to kill them , get harm them , it has done by the blind followers those are indeed Brain washed and entirely misguides by spiritual leader. I’ll say that is a pseudo argument. The fact is religion is not at all concrete anything , we can’t point out where does religion stay it is being carried by it’s followers from it’s Starting time. And afterwards it’s going forward by generation to generation. Now they are not only the part of religion but they themselves have become Religion. They are religion. If any bad things has happened for the sake of religion it’s not just the followers who are to be blamed rather, the religion as a whole should be scrutinized.

Next reason of this Intolerance attitude is the existential crisis, there are numerous religions in the world and there are always happening a clash between each other. Now is it happening?

The problem of existential crisis arises , first of all when people don’t want to feel isolated from society and his community. If any individual’s thoughts, actions and opinions don’t align with the rest of society, then

the individual person can become ostracized, isolated and oppressed by majority of people or religious orthodox people. It's more about conferring the social norms, then showing devotion to God.

Secondly, if the followers of other religions grow the social authority of major Religion will at stake. So, propagating and believing that only my religion is superior and great, salvation or Haven can be achieved only by following it. So act according to This specific Religious norms can be a existential protection. John hick, in his book History of philosophy of religion, addressed it as 'Ptolemaic view' .

And the third reason is , well known and most concerning problem, the problem of Intolerance. It will be discussed other passage, for now These three reasons are the cause for religious Terrorism.

• **RELIGIOUS MODERNISM** : In India Religion is seen here as Ideology system of thought , located in the domain of sacred. It deals with the individual and Whole. Religion is not coming from the outside world and life. It always reflects the relevance of life. But there are the question is how much relevance religion is able to show in the modern world especially in India? Modernism is Spontaneously increasing in India, if it is marge with secularism, then how can the norms, values and ideology of religion would be effected by modernism?

So if we look at the Modernism we will see that it's a thought process. But if we want to define him, we can say " the process refers to the certain socio – cultural norms, attitude and practice, which is so much advanced and also developed and revolutionary Concept ". Modernism is very dynamic compared to one social orders, so since religion merging with it , it would also very be dynamic. And positive. But when political influence comes over it , it diverts from it's real agendas. Religion fanaticism blind devotion entre into it . and within it the development of new features takes place more independently. That is religious modernism is keeping it's own separate statement. This is actually what I am observing from the present society.

At present from of religion , Religious temperament and religious practices that we see are only religious models, there doesn't exists spirituality any how. What is being religious without being spiritual?

Spirituality is a felling of the absolute principles, which makes people to do selfless action. It makes people feel identical with each other. There is no distinction between place, time and person. According to Ramakrishna paramhamsha dev " spirituality is a journey, towards genuine, immeasurable, unconditional love, wisdom and self surrender". But today so called religion is just action based religion, with no spirituality at all. Today's religion is a customised model or form . Brought about by political parties and those bodies who have read religious scriptures but don't want to address themselves as religious. Because they know that what is the defects of these fusion or this customised from of religion. Dogma has no rooms for spirituality . And the form of religion is dogmatic. In this manner people have to follow some do and don't. n this system an individual person's attitude is like This is my religion and that is your religion. The religious modernism is not inherently bad , but that political patronage and influence makes it unusable. As a result,it it's projection is not as it should be , because politics, superstitions , prejudices are distorting it . The very likely future of religious modernism is Mass hysteria, with real God and Spiritual ideology centred action . It is truly out side of the boundaries of religious influence and devotion. It's core is political influence and it's centre is self promotion, show off , radical nationalism, and bigotry. And the result of this attitude is Intolerance towards Others religious faith. So here my opinion is Religion and spirituality is not same thing, there are so many wide distinction.

In religious modernism, the person goes beyond from the reality to lead a fake Religious life. It's not only beyond from the reality but also beyond from the properties of true religion. It is from here that religious modernism takes a turn towards religious orthodoxy or dogmatism. This is so much rituals and modern technology emphasised phenomena I mean Every were with camera, everything is being recorded and everything is being expressed through the Brought cast .

But point to be noted, that is not Pseudo Religion. Pseudo religion and Religious modernism are different phenomenon. In pseudo religion people don't have any emotional ground, but on the other hand In religious modernism people can have experience of the emotions for his deities but in a modern wrapper or more Specifically in a form of customised wrapped way. In can be influenced by modern Trend, for example: if in any social platform promotes any Guru or Gurus and it is having hyped then certain amount of people start to follow them and start to feel emotion regarding the Guru and Regarding the deities. In that case they will start to obey every kind of rituals blindly, but for the followers that will not be the Pseudo Religion. When Gurus and the followers of them are spreading propagandas for the sake of selling his religious products, business items, like idols, holy water, and so on , and as well as constantly raising a specific political parties own agenda then it will go under the Pseudo Religion. In that case if any crime like illegal trafficking, sexual misconduct, and spreading hate to any atheists done by any Guru , nobody stop to give respect them, even if any one try to give them punishment the disciple will start a movement against for that person. Just like Asharam babu's case . Even An Influential Guru supports him nobody will also try to give him a reality check .it is so Hard to make a distinction between pseudo religion and Religious modernism. But they are really different.

Now a question can be raised, when the devotees are following their Guru's and deities emotionally, In this case can they be called spiritual?

I'll say, no ; Although it is true that spirituality is an emotion or emotional phenomena ,but every emotion is not spirituality, vis versa is not possible here. Here

is being represented what kind of emotions is actually a temporary feeling, which was created by the circumstances. But what kind of emotions is caused for the spirituality is a intense , dynamic, and unconditional feelings. This is a journey towards immortality, enlightenment, and Self realisation. Even, Soren Kierkegaard also show in his philosophy a revolt of religious life, against authoritarianism of the Christian Church. Also for him , Religious life means spiritual life , submission to God beyond from the authority of Church.

Therefore, Religious modernism is different from both Spirituality and Pseudo Religion.

• **PRESENT RELIGIOUS SCENARIO IN INDIA :** According to Indian constitution India is a Secular country, When India got independence from the British rule in 15th August 1947, India had to accept a major loss, an other country called Pakistan got divide from India. On the basis of Religion. Apart from this, now The year 2026 is going on, Remain there are Religious Intolerance and diversity Reflecting in India. But now, What is the actual scenario of religion in India? I already maintained that, present religion is the model or form of religious modernism. And even told there , that today's so called religious model is beyond of Spirituality they are only religious not spiritual. Now the external form of this So called non-spiritual religion is increasing in the Indian society. The irony is that they think they are spiritual. The Focus of this fusion or mashup is to increase the faith especially in Hindu and Islam religion . I.e , emancipation from the Religion boundaries. And make a Religious unity. Which is secular countries real motive.

But how much it is highlighted in present India. Present day it is matter of considerable doubt In India. Because, in present religion has not become absolute rather than new and some one fascinating among the youth. And we can notice some patterns among them,e.g self proclaimed in social media, promote and support to the priest culture, Spreading misinformation , to misinterpret the scriptures and Epics, to promote and follow pseudo science, and to follow Every religious influence blindly without verify it. And most problematic pattern is they are actually promoting pseudo religion. These all kinds of patterns bear no resemblance or relationship to the real form of religion. Fear mongering is the most prominent way of practicing religion today. So in the true sense they are not religion but pseudo religion. They destroy the nature of religion and become the cause of religious Terrorism.

By using religious modernism as a weapon today's s called politicians are trying to root there own ideas in people at the cross roads of religion. So in India we still face and observe divide and rule . And in our daily life, we become so enmeshed with religious rituals and practices that we don't even realise when and how we move away from the true religion, and enter into the era or the Age of religious modernism. In Bhagavad Gita, Srikrishna Addressed that kind of ritualistic person as "Avipaschid" that's mean Religious Dum or that who only emphasises on the ritualistic religion he or she is in ignorance or Avidya. Although it is not the case that any influence doesn't work behind it. The soft influence of religion is also present there. If we look at the Indian market then we can see that to sell the religious products is a good business today, not only that some Groups, or specific community are selling there own interpreted Scriptures, Epics by the name of God. Like Iskcon temple . And , another One more Religious soft influence has been reflecting in the Television industry, which is so influential as entertainment it is influencing the generation to generation. Even though it is not my real moto to make a clear vision about soft influence, in spite, it's an unavoidable circumstances which is really happening with India .

Also the role of Atheists here also raised an question, that how much they are able to move people towards the truth after criticize? Are they themselves aware of the situation at all ? They also the seeker of attention, and only wish to get views, there have no any actual atheism like " charvakas " . Now the atheist are only doing criticizing and refuting the religious rituals and Theory, but don't try to establish any philosophy beyond the criticism. Ipso facto , there no any philosophical ground of the atheism now, there are only scientific ground but it's fact that science can be a good approach to refute it, but not the best approach. Because science Always talks about external and concrete reality it's prasperspective is to investigate the world with an objective outlook but Philosophy is not like that, It talks about external and internal world, concrete and abstract reality. It's prasperspective Relative. So science can be a good approach to refute the religious issues but Philosophy is the best approach to refute it.

But it is also fact that atleast in India there are some atheist who are freely keeping there argument against for the religious organization, unlike Islamic countries they are not facing any dangerous issues. Dipu Das's incident in Bangladesh. Where a person got attack and kill by Maas of people those were religious blind, and the reason was an improved allegations. It proofs that India that India atleast for till now a democratic country. But there are uncertainty about how long it will last. There are concerns about the erosion of democracy, democratic rights, and it's impacts around the world. It's a worrying Trent.

As we see another Characteristics of religion is to deny of the reality. Now what is present behind of the disavowing of the real world? That is religious experience. And the manifestation of this is Bhakti . In that case Joachim watch says, that " many fake things can some times Show the characteristics of religious experience " . So can there be criteria by which real and rill can be distinguished? Because there are both difference and similarities in its content and expression between religious experience across please, time and person.

Although the form of religion has changed slightly from place to time, it is fundamental basis remains the same, but when politics is marge with Religion. The same thing is happened in India today. So basically in modern India, religion has been driving by politics, and politics has been driving by religion . According to T.R.Sharma " in India religion has always served politics, and politics has always served by Religion. And neither religion can completely eliminate politics not politics completely remove religion . "

Ipso facto at the present time, the question is no longer whatever we want religion or not, because religion and politics are so intertwined in life that we have to say how we want religion and why we want it? According to my own theory is that the more we try to personalize religion today, the more it will sound political. And since Religious institution are all present in the political domain. And therefore in the world of religious modernism, no matter what religion an individual practices personally , even if he is an atheist, he belongs to some religious organisations. In that case, his religious influence is not only religious but also political.

For this reason religious freedom also are effecting , according to USCIRF's annual report 2025 , in 2024 religious freedom conditions in India are continue decreasing. As attacks and discrimination against religious minorities continued to rise. In this crucial period Religious Intolerance takes a turn into religion oppression, and then are taking a dramatic end that is forcefully religious conversion. According to the same report in June and July police in Uttar Pradesh detained 20 Christians including 4 pastors, under accusations of violating anti conversion law , and that report also presents many political violence which is actually regarding religion and Religious Intolerance. Now what is the Religious Intolerance? It has been discussed in next passage .

• **RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND IT'S POSSIBILITY :** in this manner, I will discuss not only about religious Intolerance but also it's nature, possibility, problems , appropriateness and relevance in the aspects of Modern Era.

First of all what is Tolerance in the context of religion ? When I will discuss about it there will arise two kind of questions weather we need tolerance or not? Or we need something more appropriate beyond of these ?

If we look at the cultural history of India; we will notice that, in the case of religions believe, India from his starting time is so much liberal. There like many streams of believe has merged into the one and same Oscan of faith. As same way Rabindranath Tagore Said “ None has been hated as low, None has been distanced as far / other None has been ostracized as orphan, none has been ridiculed as irrelevant, India has accepted all .” in this ground if we try to define the definition of Tolerance that we get “ Every religion, religious faith is true, they all portray the same truth from the stand point of them own. So we should tolerate every religion” . These kind of believe is basically religious tolerances. But this is endurance, and there are some pot holes. Like, it could be that my tolerances broke down and I got into a conflict with others. Or , as Vivekananda said , it could also mean that I'm tolerating you because my religion is great, and your religion is inferior . My tolerance could break down anytime. This kind of attitude is continuing the reason of every religious conflict in India and his neighbours. Especially in case of Bharat, Bangladesh and Pakistan. We can see, this attitude are creating a tension that any time war can be started, and this is undeniable that the reason behind the separation of this three country are Religious Intolerance. Now, what attitude we need then?

The answer is given by Vivekananda, that is “ Acceptance” . This is not the fact that if there are some kind of difference between many, then obviously the problem will arise , rather the fact is when politics or political interest seekers come into the frame of Tolerance, it will no longer positive attitude, rather will turn into a negative phenomenon. And the outcome of that is conflict. So we need to go towards the path of acceptance “ the religious acceptance ”.

The basis of religious acceptance is religious pluralism . Indeed, pluralism is the history and Pride of Bharat. Actually both Tolerance and acceptance is based on the ground of pluralistic approach of religion. But now days tolerance is being failed to follow that philosophical view and to fulfil the needs by which society keeps maintain the harmony and peace.

If we want to explain pluralism in one sentence we have to look at the philosophy of ‘Ramakrishna paramhamsha dev’, as he says “ Jata mat tata path ” , it appropriately shows the ruts of acceptance. Although who /those will get it is as it's literal meaning he / they will really nothing else but fools and stupide. First of all we gotta define what is pluralism in short. Basically it says, “ Every religious or non – religious believe weather it's atheist or theist are Partially truth , And it explains the reality by his own, more Specifically it reveals and emphasises different facts of the same reality or truth ”. This is pluralism, now how acceptance are coming from this ?

Pluralism don't think, My religion and Religious faith is only true, every ones faith is wrong. Rather It takes all faith and believe into a single room . There every one is same but also different in the order of it's uniqueness. Acceptance is the product of religious pluralism. In the matter of acceptance, it accepts every one's believe as true, but it doesn't that it gets forget own believe, no , but it takes all good things from every

religious prospective and adds with there believe. For this reason which religious system follows the philosophy of acceptance, that system can sustain for ages . It is quite different from the view of Tolerance . Now the question is, ‘ is the Acceptance possible in India and It’s neighbours. Put the answer of this question is not easy to deal. But if we look at the history we can see, India is following this philosophy from many ages. I.E. I did not say any new some one. According to Vivekananda “Any Hindu don’t need to convert in Buddhism, no Muslims need to turn into Hindu and no Buddhist need to become Christian let them follow there own religion and faith. There no need to remove any religion, let religion exists instead of this let remove the communalism ”. In the modern world, the main Problem or Obstacles to fulfil all conditions of Religious acceptance is rigid nationalism . This is the main obstacles as I maintained the above passages. Communal harmony is still in danger. But as well as possible in India. We should not give up our hope, because India that country where many religions take breath freely, we need to remove fundamentalism , Exclusivism and should take the path of acceptance. It is the time when we should those religion from beyond of politics. In my opinion, it can’t be denied that religion and politics have been related from the past to present, not holistically rather partially .

According to Alireza sabziyan Mousa Abadi, both Religion and politics can be divided into two theoretical and practical sections and the relation between religion and politics is of the identical type only in the domain of practical...Religion is a Devin origin, so we should not be confused about these two different notion . Where religion and politics merges, Intolerance starts from that fusion.

There are some other kinds of Issues that is Geopolitical Issues. e.g. Jammu and Kashmir issues, now we all know how this issues has become the reason of Intolerance . So there are some kind of areas, where acceptance will not work. In this kind of area acceptance, tolerance are meaningless. So , we can conclude that except Geopolitical area we should stand with acceptance and consistently practice acceptance . but when nation or a place where the boundary line of politics, religion and Geopolitical Issues get Merges with the necessity of nation, in that Place neither religious tolerance, not Religious acceptance will work. Because in that case politics nor Religion in it’s pure from. Any kind of theoretical side doesn’t work else. There are so many kinds of area where the situation will be remain same, even the soft influence of Religion , Art and Ideology will no longer work.

If we look at the Pakistan, Bangladesh which are Islamic countries there we can’t see any kind of tolerance, instead of that, they are showing the seeds of anti Hindu and Anti India through out the education. Even children learn Intolerance activity and attitude from them initial days, for example a fourth great text book of a public school Stats “ speed of a bullet is 800 , if a Russian stands at the distance of 3,200 meters from a Mujahid and he aims at the Russians head , Calculate how many seconds it will take for the bullet to strike the Russian ”. How terrible this is the ultimate example to show how one of neighbour of India is constantly keep spreading violence and violence is the dangerous product of Intolerance. For promoting descrimination there can’t have any better way except Pseudo education. In that case we can say certainly, there are no room for tolerance, and obviously also not for acceptance. So the question ‘ weather tolerance is possible between Various type of religious community or not” is worthless in the context of present situation. But Main and relevant question is “ Weather tolerance and acceptance are possible between many kinds of States or not , one is orthodox Islamic states another is India. One of them is Hindu Phobic country another is Islam Phobic country.” It’s problematic but Find out a solution is not really a big deal. But Politics is the as main obstacles won’t give any chance to fulfil the possibilities.

• **CONCLUSION :** I is that country, where many religions took his first breath. Culturally India is open hearted and acceptance focused country. Where many philosophy could sustain themselves. It always shown the relevance of life but at present time Religious acceptance and our heritage in a Pickle . Not only India, not only the context of India but we could see the more dangerous picture of in Pakistan and Bangladesh. This is not actually the Religious problem but it’s a Socio-religious and Socio-political issues.

Gandhi ji in his Constructive programme says “ Religion is a personal matter which should have no place in politics” . The main problem of India that, we are yet politically uneducated. For this reason cleaver, Vicious politicians are taking over us . And maximum politicians coming from the Religious background. India is the secular State, we are almost getting forget it .

But nevertheless we don't have the power to uproot or ruin the religion. Even Marx also wanted to do it. But he was quite unsuccessful. Whatever, Oppression on women, children and Weaker sections are one more characteristics of religion especially Islamic States always Keep women Suppress with the name of religion. Finally we should not forget that pure religion always up brings us, it directs us towards emancipation, it is a journey from the darkness to enlightenment, from non-existence to existence, from illusion to truthfulness . It makes us Unite. But if it is creating distinction between human, then we should to keep it mind that it's not that what we need.

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