**Babri Mosque to Mander**

**The negative conseque-nces of the Babri Masjid’s conversion extend beyond immediate repercuss-ions.**

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Last week, India has witnessed a historic event that marks a sig­nificant shift in its socio-religious landscape. The inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, construct­ed on the site where the Babri Masjid stood until its demo­lition in 1992, has sparked both celebration and con­troversy. This development, spearheaded by Hindu far-right groups and inaugurat­ed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, raises critical questions about the implications for India’s secular ideals, the status of its Muslim population, and the role of the Supreme Court in shap­ing the nation’s identity.

The Babri Masjid-Ram Temple saga is a timeline etched with conflict, le­gal battles, and political maneuvering. The roots of the dispute date back to the 16th century, with the construction of the Babri Mosque by Mughal com­mander Mir Baqi. Over the years, claims and counterclaims by Hindus and Mus­lims have fueled tensions, leading to the mosque’s eventual demolition in 1992 by a Hindu nationalist mob. The recent inauguration of the Ram Mandir is seen by many as a triumph for Hindu far-right groups, culminating a four-decade campaign. However, it raises concerns about religious triumphalism and the potential transformation of India’s secu­lar democracy into a Hindu-first nation. The controversial nature of the temple’s construction is amplified by its associ­ation with the 1992 demolition, which triggered nationwide Hindu-Muslim ri­ots, resulting in over 2,000 deaths.

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The decision by the Supreme Court in 2019, giving ownership of the disputed land to a Hindu trust, has been a pivot­al moment in this contentious journey. Critics argue that the court’s ruling sym­bolizes a departure from the principles of secularism and paves the way for re­ligious majoritarianism. The court’s in­volvement in the Ayodhya case echoes a broader trend where religious senti­ments sway legal decisions, potentially eroding the foundational values of a di­verse and pluralistic India.

The impact of the Babri Masjid’s con­version into a temple goes beyond do­mestic implications. It challenges the perception of India as a secular state and sends ripples across the Muslim world. The Muslim community in India and beyond sees this development as a blow to their identity and a reflection of rising religious intolerance. The global Muslim diaspora closely observes how India, with its diverse population, man­ages its religious dynamics and protects the rights of its minority communities.

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Furthermore, the timing of the tem­ple inauguration, just months ahead of general elections, raises questions about political motivations. The move is perceived by some as a strategy by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to capitalize on religious sentiments, po­tentially influencing electoral outcomes. The intertwining of religious and politi­cal narratives is a cause for concern, as it may deepen divisions within Indian so­ciety. India’s shift from secularism to a more overtly religious identity is under­scored not only by the Ram Mandir ep­isode but also by the Supreme Court’s handling of other significant issues. The court’s decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, in viola­tion of UN resolutions, and its perceived alignment with the government’s agen­da have further fueled apprehensions about the judiciary’s independence and commitment to secular principles.

Simultaneously, as India undergoes in­ternal transformations, the global stage witnesses similar patterns. The ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza draws paral­lels with the Babri Masjid-Ram Temple controversy, reflecting a troubling trend of religious and territorial disputes es­calating into conflicts with global reper­cussions. The Babri Masjid-Ram Temple saga has the potential to reshape the reli­gious coexistence landscape in India. The transformation of a historical mosque into a Hindu temple sends a troubling signal to religious minorities, particular­ly the Muslim community. It raises con­cerns about the protection of minori­ty rights and fosters an atmosphere of religious insecurity. The long-standing harmony among diverse religious com­munities is at risk, challenging India’s traditional ethos of unity in diversity.

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The geopolitical dynamics of the South Asian region are intricately linked with India’s internal religious shifts. The Babri Masjid’s conversion has the potential to fuel tensions not only with­in India but also with neighboring coun­tries. The decision may be perceived as a move toward majoritarianism, unset­tling the delicate balance in the region. Nations with significant Muslim pop­ulations, such as Pakistan and Bangla­desh, may view this development as a cause for concern, impacting diplomat­ic relations and regional stability.

On the international stage, the Babri Masjid-Ram Temple controversy adds another layer to ongoing discussions about religious freedom and tolerance. The global community is likely to scru­tinize India’s commitment to secular principles and the protection of minori­ty rights. The controversy may influence diplomatic ties with countries that pri­oritize human rights and religious free­dom. India’s reputation as a secular de­mocracy could face challenges, affecting its standing in international organiza­tions and alliances. The negative conse­quences of the Babri Masjid’s conversion extend beyond immediate repercus­sions. India’s evolving identity as a more explicitly religious state could influence its engagement with the internation­al community. The alignment of domes­tic policies with religious ideologies may affect diplomatic relations and partner­ships. Nations seeking secular and in­clusive governance may reevaluate their alliances with India, impacting trade, col­laboration, and strategic partnerships.

[IGP meets delegation of welfare organisation](https://www.nation.com.pk/30-Jan-2024/igp-meets-delegation-of-welfare-organisation)

In conclusion, the conversion of the Babri Masjid into the Ram Mandir serves as a symbol of India’s evolving identity, raising crucial questions about the preservation of its secular ethos. The impact on the Muslim community, both within India and globally, neces­sitates a thoughtful reflection on reli­gious tolerance and pluralism. The role of the Supreme Court in these transfor­mative events raises concerns about the judiciary’s role in safeguarding In­dia’s foundational values. As the world observes these shifts, it underscores the need for nations to balance reli­gious aspirations with the principles of inclusivity and diversity.

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