Ban on Pakistani Media and Social Media Handles

Status Update:
Are the previously banned Pakistani handles now active again, or are they still banned?

Background:
Following the Pahalgam terror attack on 22 April 2025, the Indian government took stringent measures to curb the spread of misinformation during Operation Sindoor. As part of these measures, on 27 April 2025, India banned 16 Pakistani TV channels and YouTube/social media accounts linked to Pakistani influencers.
The ban was enforced to prevent the dissemination of fake news, anti-India propaganda, and incitement during a sensitive counter-terrorism operation. [Live Mint]

The YouTube channels had been banned for spreading provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives against India, its Army and security agencies. The banned channels have subscribers of over 63 million. [Newsonair] [Hindustan Times]

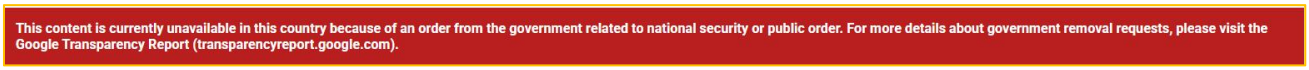
On 2 July 2025, many of these banned accounts suddenly became visible again in India, which led to massive outrage on social media.

This report will provide a list of the banned accounts, their **current status**, and an explanation for why some of them briefly reappeared.

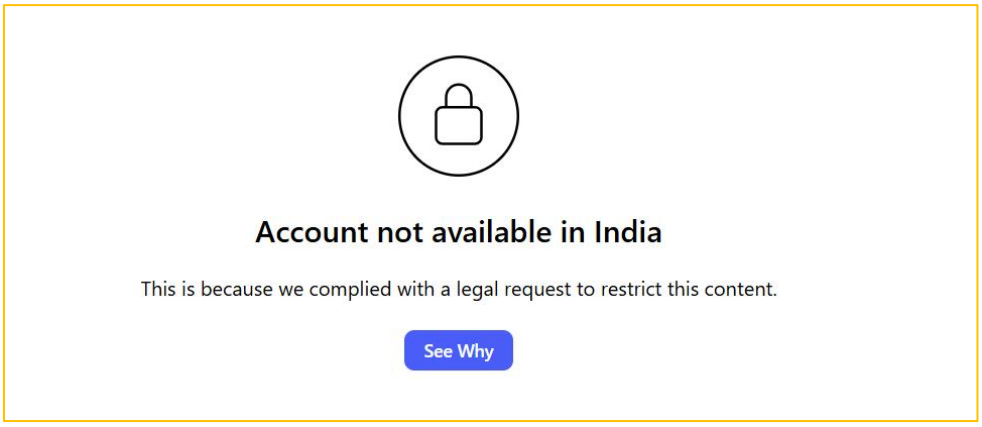
List of Banned Pakistani YouTube Channels:
[ANI]

Note : The channels which are currently Inaccessible in India showing this message :

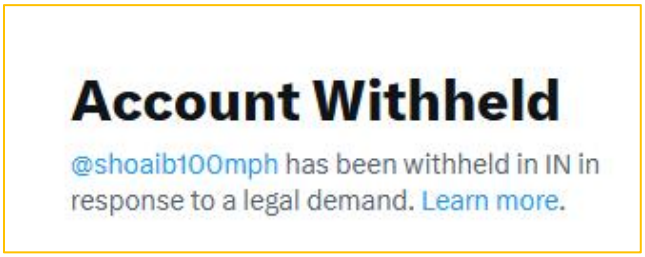
Youtube



Instagram



X (Formerly Twitter)



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S. No.	Name of the YouTube Channel	YouTube Handle	URL	Current Status
1.	Dawn News	@dawnnewspakistan	https://www.youtube.com/@dawnnewspakistan/videos	Inaccessible
2.	Irshad Bhatti	@IrshadBhatti01	https://www.youtube.com/@IrshadBhatti01	Inaccessible
3.	SAMAA TV	@Samaatv	https://www.youtube.com/@Samaatv	Inaccessible
4.	ARY NEWS	@ArynewsTvofficial	https://www.youtube.com/@ArynewsTvofficial	Inaccessible
5.	BOL NEWS	@BOLNewsofficial	https://www.youtube.com/@BOLNewsofficial	Inaccessible
6.	Raftar	@raftartv	https://www.youtube.com/@raftartv	Inaccessible
7.	The Pakistan Reference	@ThePakistanReference	https://www.youtube.com/@ThePakistanExperience	Inaccessible
8.	Geo News	@geonews	https://www.youtube.com/@geonews	Inaccessible
9.	Samaa Sports	@SamaaSports	https://www.youtube.com/samaasports/videos	Inaccessible
10.	GNN	@gnnhofficial	https://www.youtube.com/@gnnhofficial	Inaccessible
11.	Uzair Cricket	@UzairCricket786	https://www.youtube.com/@UzairCricket786	Inaccessible
12.	Umar Cheema Exclusive	@UmarCheemaExclusive	https://www.youtube.com/@UmarCheemaExclusive	Inaccessible
13.	Asma Shirazi	@AsmaShiraziofficial	https://www.youtube.com/@AsmaShiraziofficial	Inaccessible
14.	Muneeb Farooq	@muneebfarooqofficial	https://www.youtube.com/@muneebfarooqofficial/videos	Inaccessible
15.	SUNO News HD	@SUNONewsHD	https://www.youtube.com/@SUNONewsHD/videos	Inaccessible
16.	Razi Naama	@razinaama	https://www.youtube.com/@razinaama	Inaccessible

Before that Government had also banned 6 more Pakistani Youtube channels on 22 April 2025. [PIB]

List:

S.No.	Channel Name	Current Satus
1	AjTak Pakistan	Not appearing on Youtube
2	Discover Point	Appearing
3	Reality Checks	Not appearing on Youtube
4	Kaiser Khan	Not appearing on Youtube
5	The Voice of Asia	Not appearing on Youtube
6	Bol Media Bol	Not appearing on Youtube

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Ban on Pakistani Influencer's Accounts.

On May 2, 2025, the Indian government blocked the Instagram accounts of several prominent Pakistani celebrities, including singer Atif Aslam, cricketers Shahid Afridi and Babar Azam, and actor Fawad Khan.
[Economic Times]

Full List :

S.No.	Name	Profession	Current Status		
			X Account	Youtube Account	Instagram Account
1	Atif Aslam	Singer	Accessible	Inaccessible	Inaccessible
2	Shahid Afridi	Cricketer	Inaccessible	Inaccessible	Inaccessible
3	Babar Azam	Cricketer	Accessible	NA	Inaccessible
4	Fawad Khan	Actor	Accessible	NA	Inaccessible
5	Hania Aamir	Actress	Accessible	Accessible	Inaccessible
6	Mahira Khan	Actress	Inaccessible	Accessible	Inaccessible
7	Ali Zafar	Singer/Actor	Accessible	Accessible	Inaccessible
8	Sanam Saeed	Actress	Accessible	NA	Inaccessible
9	Bilal Abbas	Actor	Accessible	Accessible	Inaccessible
10	Momina Mustehsan	Singer	Accessible	Accessible	Inaccessible
11	Iqra Aziz	Actress	Accessible	Accessible	Inaccessible
12	Imran Abbas	Actor	Unaccesible	NA	Inaccessible
13	Sajal Aly	Actress	Accessible	Accessible	Inaccessible
14	Shoaib Akhtar	Cricketer	Inaccessible	Inaccesible	Inaccesible

Why are some channels reappearing despite the ban?

On 2 July 2025, many of these banned accounts suddenly became visible again in India, which led to massive outrage on social media.

Government sources have clarified that this **temporary visibility was due to a technical glitch**, and the ban remains in place. The Instagram handles and YouTube channels that briefly appeared will be blocked again soon.

Instagram accounts of Pakistani celebrities like Yumna Zaidi, Ahad Raza Mir, Saba Qamar, Danish Taimoor, Mawra Hocane, Dananeer Mobeen, Shahid Afridi and others were briefly accessible in India on 2 July 2025.

Similarly, banned YouTube channels such as Hum TV and Shoaib Akhtar's official channel were also visible between 2 July and 3 July 2025. This triggered speculation on Indian social media about a possible removal of the ban.
However, as of 3 July 2025, most of these Instagram accounts are no longer accessible, and the temporarily visible YouTube channels are expected to be blocked again shortly.

It is important to note that banning a YouTube channel in a country only blocks its homepage. Individual videos from that channel may still appear in search results unless YouTube itself removes the entire channel for violating its policies.

The government sources informed IndiaToday.in that the accounts were reflecting due to a technical glitch***. "If you can see some accounts either on X, YouTube and Meta, they will be inaccessible in a few hours. Some technical glitch led to the unblocking. Rectified now,"*** informed the government source.

[Telangana Today] [Times Now] [India Today]

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