

Secularism means religion separate from political, social, cultural aspect of life. Religion being treated as purely personal matter.

India has adopted word 'Secular' through 42nd constitutional amendment act, 1976. Though it was implicit in the essence of the constitution.

In Art 25-28 also secularism is ingrained.

Difference between Indian secularism and western form of secularism.

India follows a 'positive secularism' in which state provides equal status and support to all religions (irrespective of their strength)

- In Indian secularism there is active involvement of the state

in its support.

Ex- Government support and incentivise
Haj Yatra, Chardham Yatra, etc.

- Public holidays on religious
festivals Holi, Diwali, Eid, Christmas,
Guru Nanak Jayanti, etc.

- No religious taxes.
- No religion of the state.

Western secularism

- Separation of state from religion
- 'water tight compartment',
non-interference ✓
- (Negative secularism)
- State does not support any
religion.
- No incentive provided to
any religion ✓

Hence, the Indian secularism is a positive secularism whereas the western secularism is a negative secularism.