

PART 4

33.

Secularism is the political philosophy of separation of state and religion. In western world secularism developed in west from their experience of Dark ages while in India it evolved through our struggle of freedom.

Secularism in Indian Constitution.

- Preamble states that India is a Secular State (from 42nd CAA 1976).
It also mentions about liberty of belief, worship and faith.
- Fundamental Right to freedom of Religion under Article 25, 26, 27, 28.
- Rule of Law & policy of non-discrimination on the basis of caste, sex, religion, race.

Difference between Secularism of India from Western societies

- Western societies have negative freedom of secularism which reflects that religion would remain confined to personal sphere.
People can practice whatever they want within their private lives. State would not interfere.

Thus many European countries have banned wearing Burqa for muslim women.

Such policy is result of corrupt practices of Dark ages when religion controlled state, religious wars were fought and any scientific innovation opposing religious beliefs, were curbed.

Scientific Revolution and Renaissance

developed scientific temper and opposed religious orthodoxy. So modern Nation-states adopted negative secularism.

• In case of India, it's well known that multiple religions & ethnic groups reside here since ages. They all have impacted each other & thus Indian Mosiac is formed. Here religion plays important part in daily life of common people. Thus it's difficult to keep it out of public sphere.

Our Constitution makers were well aware of these facts. Thus they decided to have positive secularism. In this type of secularism, state keeps distance from all religion but also gives equal protection to all.

Thus constitution gives right to freedom of conscience and freedom to propagate, promote and manage & practice ones religion.

So in that sense, Indian secularism is more inclusive. Added to this Supreme Court tries to

Interference in matters where individual rights are hurt.

So Indian constitution also states that right to religion must be within public morality, public order and individual rights.

Such a system has helped in improving cultural aspects related to religion like gender inequality (Triple Talaaq, Shabari Mela) and human dignity.