

Secularism in Indian

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Secularism in Indian

- **Introduction**

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2. What dose secular system means?
3. History of secularism in India
4. Meaning of secular government in India
5. Secularism in India Constitution
6. Does secularism practically exists in India?

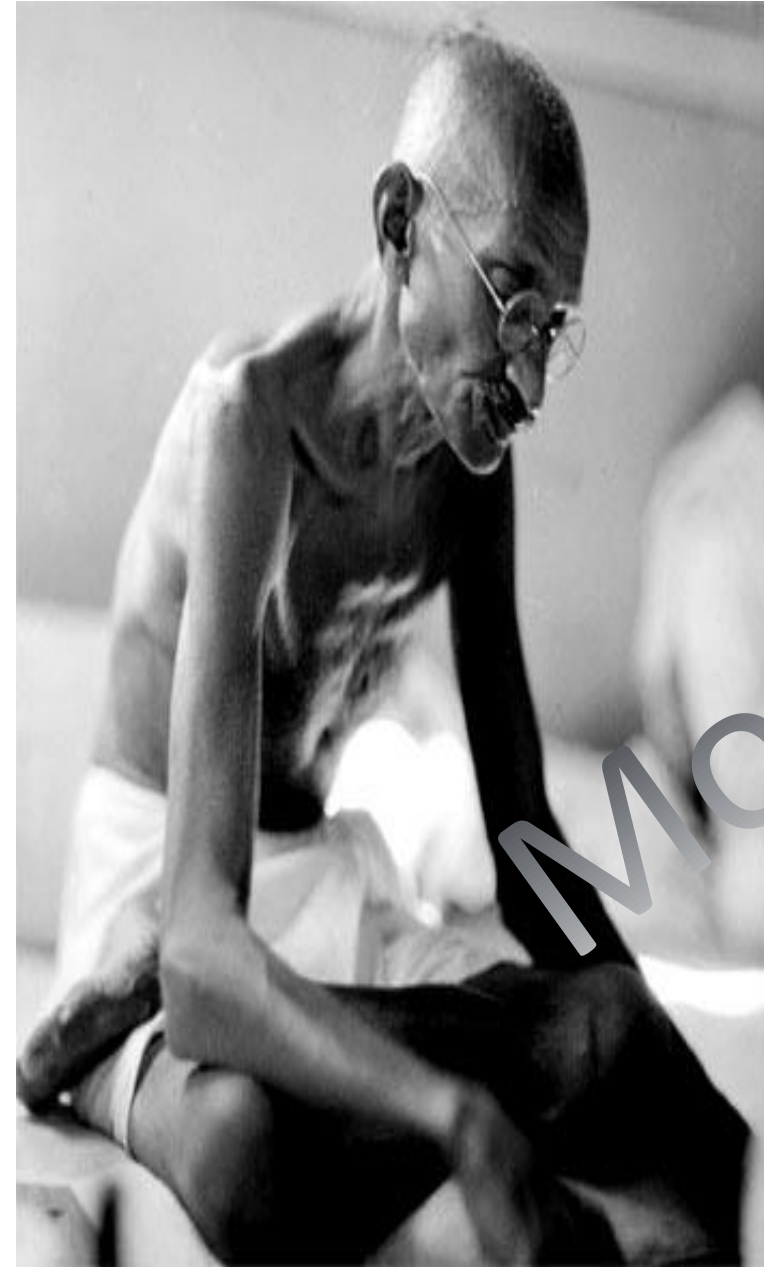
Secularism in Indian

“I do not expect India of my dreams to develop one religion, i.e., to be wholly Hindu or wholly Christian or wholly Mussulmen, but I want it to be wholly tolerant, with its religions working side by side with one another.”

A black and white portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing his characteristic round glasses and a white shawl. He has a mustache and is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle expression.

**Mahatma
Gandhi**

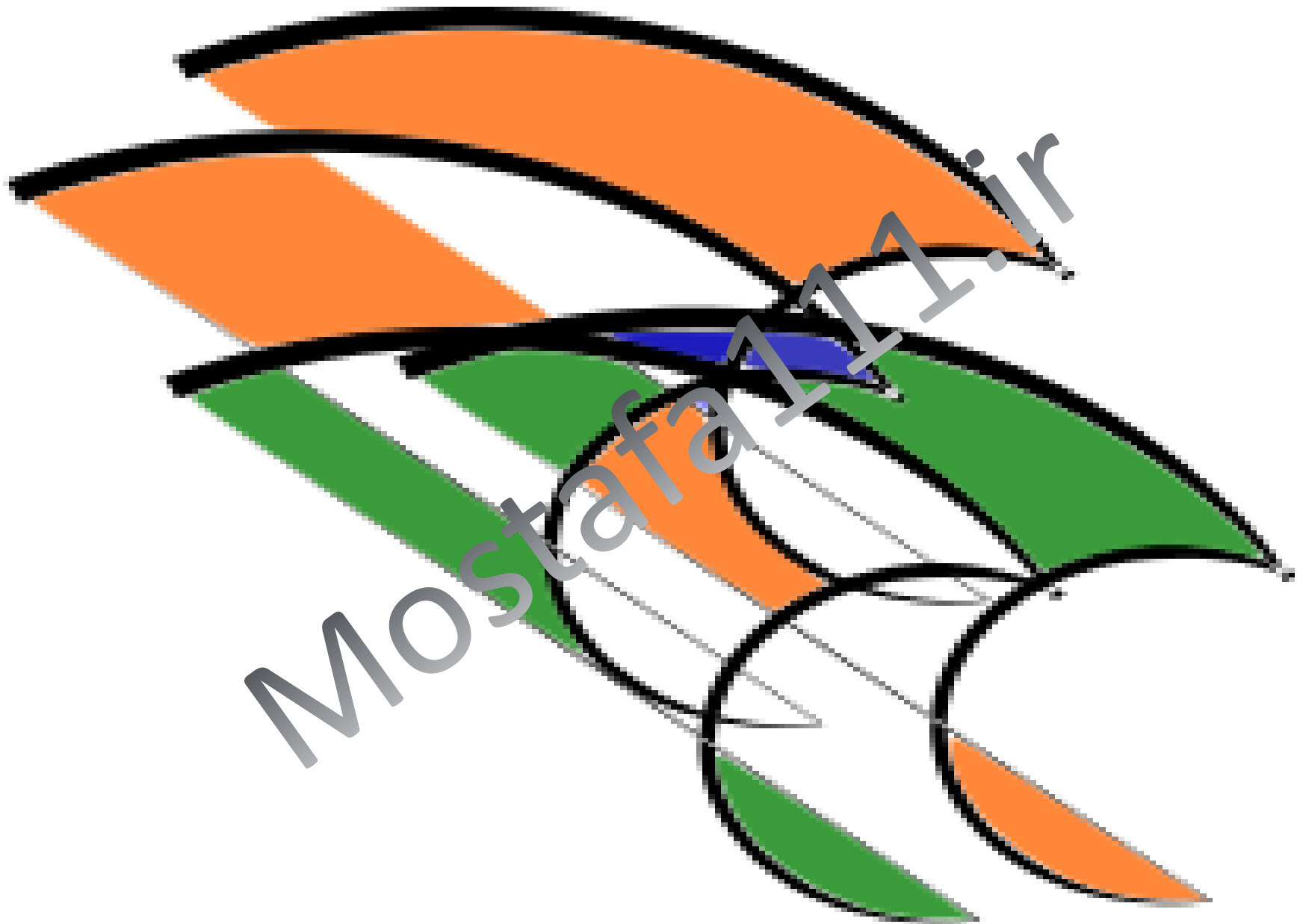
Secularism in Indian



I swear by my religion, I will die for it. But it is my personal affair. The State has nothing to do with it. The State would look after your secular welfare, health, communications, foreign relations, currency and so on, but not your or my religion. That is everybody's personal concern. **Mahatma Gandhi**

Importations of Secularism for India

- Necessity of secularism for a plural and diversified India is as important as lung for a live body.
- Although Indian Constitution was sign up on secular lines but India made itself as paradise of different faiths in 1976, by a revision in its Constitution and placing the word “secular” in it, and put the republic of India in a new shining paradigm,
- by choosing secular system, Indians were expected to tolerate all religions and religious and cultural pluralism were recognised by this act clearly and officially.
- Long and bloodiest civil war among politicised religion’s followers during and after independent and possibility of continuously clash between different cultures in Indian territories and diversity that exist there lead wise Indian policy-makers to make India as paradise for any believe and any approach of religions by choosing secular system.



Being Indian. Being Plural.

What is a secular system?

- It is a wrong perspective to know a secular system as non-religion or anti-religion system.
- India is one of the most religious country in the world
- in this political unit, religion and philosophy is descent to the living style level of Indian people
- Secular approach to the governing part (as container of power), is irrespective to society's religion affairs and considers religion as privet side of any members of its society's life.



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What does secular system mean?

- The Encyclopaedia of Britannica defines secular as 'non-spiritual, having no concern with religious or spiritual matters'.
- So a secular state is neither a godless state nor an irreligious state nor an anti-religious state.



Christianity



Jainism



Hinduism



Buddhism



Sikhism



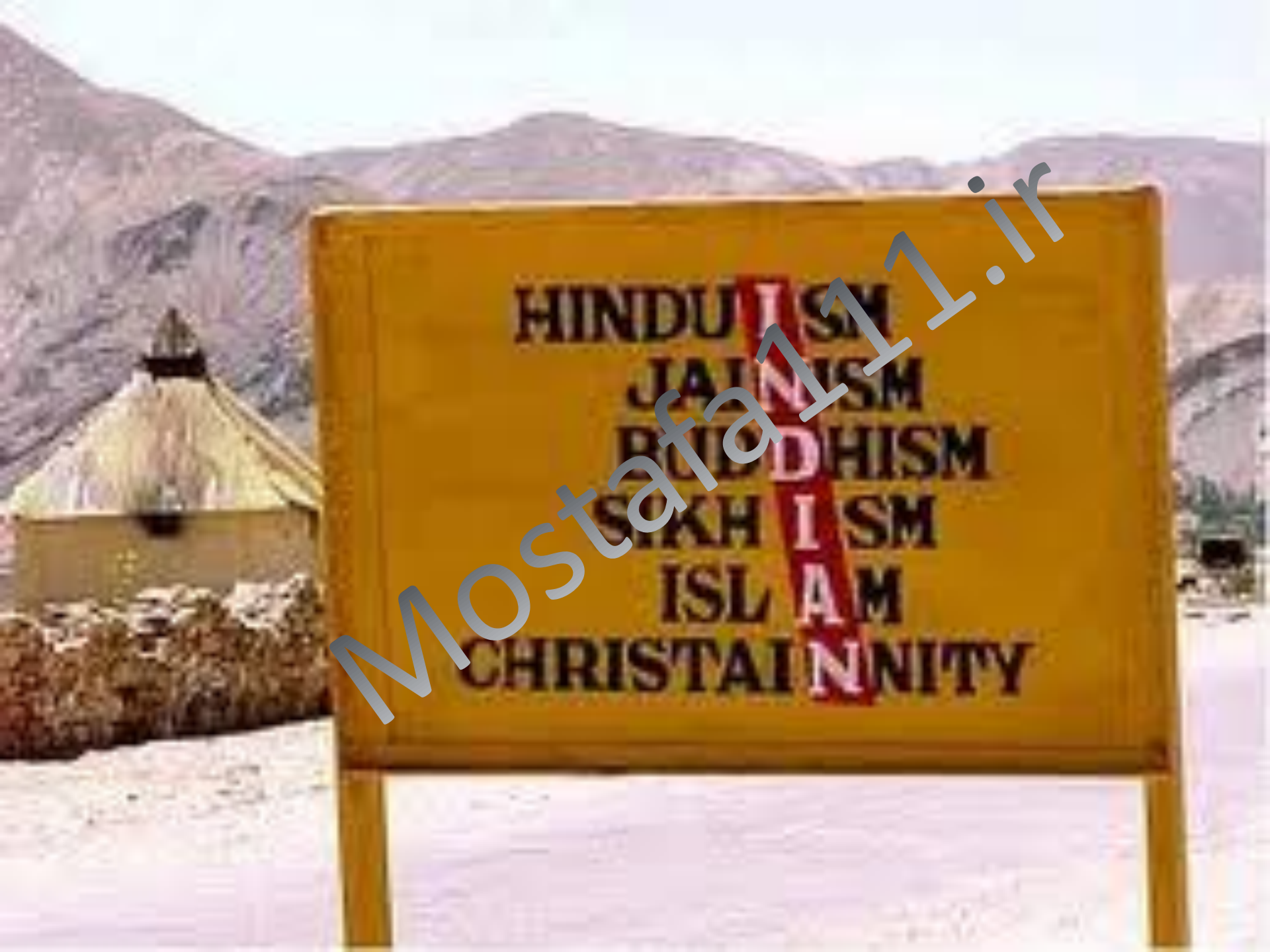
Islam

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Indian Secularism in its architect's eye

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891-1956), the architect of the Indian Constitution said:

“Secularism does not mean that we can abolish religion. It does take into consideration the religious sentiments of the people. All that a secular state means is that this parliament shall not be capable to impose any particular religious upon the people.”



HINDU I SM
JAINISM
BUDDHISM
SIKH I SM
ISL AM
CHRISTAI NNITY

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History of secularism in India

- Hinduism on the whole is in the favour of diversity and pluralism so millions of gods and goddess are accepted and welcomed in it and in somehow secularism is laying in its principals.
- It also has a strong tradition of freedom of integrity and tolerance of religious in its diversity.
- India as traditional society contains many traditions remaining their origin in part to the different religions that exist there.
- Upanishads as old Hindu scriptures speaks of “sarva dharma samabhava”, which means respect for all belief systems



History of secularism in India

- Secularism in India, in some way is a confronting with communalism, not a challenge between church and king as in west.
- Communal force as an anti-secular and minority movement that during and after Independent made and prepare a two-polar society, that clashes among them take millions lives.
- During freedom struggle, secularism was the most dominant principle and the leaders of the “Indian National Congress party”, like Sheri late Mahatma Gandhi, Sheri late Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sheri late Jawaher Lal Nehru and others were deeply announced their believe and commitment to the ideal of secularism.
- Secularism was the word of the Indian nation, who tired by partition and sectarian riots and above all terrorism that showed its dangerous face by assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, did not want any more combative talk.
- Thus the secular principles got preserved into the Indian constitution. Under Nehru and later his successors in the Congress Party, the concept of a secular nation-state was officially adopted as India's path to political modernity and national integration.
- secularism in India was conceived as a system that sustained religious and cultural pluralism.



History of secularism in India

- Secularisation process In the post Independent era was in very slow speed
- although constitution and governing bodies were secular, but communal elements infiltrated all corner of Indian system; even in Congress government were very strongly they had many leaders in important positions that were influenced by a Hindu communal ideology.
- Late 70's and the early 80's, communalism got a strong boost and it started attacking secularism in a big way, the BJP and its supporters like VHP (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) and RSS began their eruption and even Hindu ideological-based militant groups such as the “Bajrang Dal” and the “Shivsena” come to exist to forcefully bring communal movement forward.
- Now communal forces are gathered under an umbrella with the name of “Hindutva” and confronting Secularism by name it as a new mask of fundamentalism and equating fundamentalism with Islam.



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Meaning of secular government in India

- The word secular suggests equality for all religions and religious tolerance and respect.
- India does not have an official state religion.
- Every person has the right to preach, practice and propagate any religion they choose.
- The government must not favour or discriminate against any religion. It must treat all religions with equal respect.
- All citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs are equal in front of law.
- No religious teaching is imparted in government or government-aided schools. Nevertheless, general information about all established world religions is imparted as part of the course in Sociology, without giving any importance to any one religion or the others.
- Secularism in India meant equal respect for all religions and cultures and non-interference of religion in the government affairs.
- Also, according to the Indian Constitution no discrimination will be made on the basis of caste, creed, gender and class.
- all citizens of India irrespective of one's religion, caste or gender have right to vote. All will enjoy same rights without any discrimination on any ground. Therefore, the chief aspects of Indian Secularism are:
- No State Religion, Separation of State and Religion, Peaceful co-existence of all religions, Treatment of all religions equally by the State, Equality of opportunity in the public field for all irrespective of caste or creed or race or religion ensuring equal citizenship, Freedom of religion both individual and corporate

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Secularism in Indian Constitution

Article 14

Article 15

Article 16

Article 17

Article 25

Article 26

Article 27

Article 28

Article 29

Article 30



Does secularism practically exist in India

- Secular system exists in India
 - India's law especially is secular and the minority's right is clearly mentioned and protected
 - Can say India is perfect in this regard
 - but the problem is that the process of secularisation in India after independence is not complete till now
 - anti-secular elements also active there and the threats to Indian Secularism are strong



Three major enemy of secularism in India

- politicisation of Religion,
- Casteism
- Communalism

are three major enemy of secularism and all of them are strong now.



Three important characteristics of secularism in India

- **It is liberal** (It not only ensures religious equality and liberty but also protects the rights of minorities).
- **It is qualified, not absolute** (Religious freedom is subject to reasonable restrictions to preserve public order and health of the people).
- **It is Dynamic** (The government may adopt necessary laws to achieve the goals of welfare state even if they violate the traditional principles).



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Youth for Secularism