

FACTS THAT MATTERS -

- 1) The term secularism refers to the separation between the power of religion and the power of the state. This is important for a country to function democratically.
- 2) Secularism 's opposition to institutionalized religion means that it promotes freedom and equality between and within religions.
- 3) The Indian state is not ruled by a religious group. It does not support any one religion.
- 4) Indian secularism follows a strategy of non-interference. But at the same time it also intervenes in religion. Again we can give example of the practice of untouchability. The Indian constitution bans this practice, it believes discriminates and excludes that violates the fundamental rights of lower caste people.
- 5) Indian secularism is different from that of other democratic countries such as the United States of America. There is a strict separation between religion and the state in American secularism but in Indian secularism as mentioned above, the state can intervene in religious affairs.

WORDS THAT MATTERS –

- 1) **SECULAR**:- A state where all religions command equal respect.
- 2) **COERCIONS**:- To force others to do something what they do not want to do.
- 3) **INTERVENE**:- State's efforts to influence a particular matter in accordance with the principles of the constitution.
- 4) **FREEDOM TO INTERPRET**:- It refers to the freedom that all persons shall have to understand things in their own way.

VERY SHRT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1) What is discrimination?

A1) Discrimination is the practice of treating someone less fairly than others on the basis of caste, colour, sex, religion, etc.

Q2) Give examples of one secular state and one non secular state?

A2) One secular state is India and Saudi- Arabia is non-secular state.

Q3) What is freedom to interpret?

A3) Freedom to interpret means an individual's liberty to develop his own understanding and meaning of the religion that one practices.

Q4) Which type of state gives you religious freedom?

A4) In democratic country only a secular state can ensure the freedom of the individuals and can protect the fundamental rights of all its citizens. In almost all democratic countries, the right to freedom of religion is guaranteed to all citizens.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS: -

Q1) Define secularism.

A1) The term ' **secularism** ' means showing due respect to all religions. In a secular state, there is no official religion of the state and it does not discriminate against any religion.

Q2) What does the Indian Government do to promote secularism?

A2) To ensure to promote secularism the Indian Government has taken various steps in this direction:

- 1) All government institutions in India like government offices, law courts, police stations etc. are not supposed to display anything which promotes any one religion.
- 2) The Government schools cannot promote any religion either in their programs or through any religious celebration.
- 3) Another strategy adopted by the Government is to adopt a strategy of non-interference in the religious practice of different communities.

Q3) In what way does Indian Secularism differ from others?

A3) Unlike Indian secularism, there is strict separation between religion and the state in American secularism. The separation between state and religion is more rigid than in India. In India the state can, interfere in religious, social injustice like untouchability, and unequal, treatment to women in the case of interference of property. But such an interference should be based on ideals set forth by the Constitution.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS: -

Q1) Why is it necessary to separate religion from state?

A1) There are **two main** reasons, why the separation of religion from the state is important.

- 1) **The first** reason is to prevent the domination of one religion over another. Example Almost all countries of the world will have more than one religious groups living in them, within these religious groups, there will be most likely be one group that is in a majority. If this majority religious group has access to state power, then it could quiet easily use this power, and financial resources to discriminate against and persecute persons of other religions. This would violate fundamental rights.
- 2) **The second** is to protect the freedom of individual, to exist from their religion, embrace another religion or have the freedom to interpret religious teachings differently.

Q2) Suggest some ways in which you can work to promote secularism in your country.

A2) (1) The Indian state is not ruled by a religious group nor it supports any one religion. In our country, Government places like law courts, police stations, Government school are not supposed to demonstrate or promote any one religion.

(2) Secularism works to prevent the domination of religion is through a strategy of non-interference. In order to respect the sentiments of all religions and not interfere with religious practices.

(3) Our constitution banned untouchability the state intervenes in religion in order to uproot a social practice that it believed discriminated, and excluded that violated the fundamental rights of the people belonging to lower caste.

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