

# Difference Western Secularism and Indian Secularism

Secularism is defined as the separation of state from the influence and functioning of all religious institutions.

Although the general meaning is nominally the same in all democratic setups, its application varies from region to region. This article will elaborate upon how secularism in the West is different from that of secularism in India.

Secularism is enshrined in the Constitution of India through the 42nd Amendment. Thus the concept of secularism is important in the UPSC Exams.

The difference between Western-Secularism and India-Secularism is elaborated upon below

Differences Between Western-Secularism and Indian-Secularism			
S.No	Differentiating Factors	Western-Secularism	Indian-Secularism
1	Definition	In the West, the State is separate from the functioning of all religious institution and groups.	Secularism in India means that the state is neutral to all religious groups but not necessarily separate
2	Role of Government	The state believes in total non-interference of religion. The state is allowed to curtail the rights of citizens if the religion is causing hindrance in the functioning of the state.	In India, the concept is not restricted to the question of how religious groups are to be treated. Instead, the essence of secularism lies in forging a positive relationship between the state and religion.
3	Expression of Religion	The Western concept of Secularism does not believe in an open display of religion with except for places of worship.	In India, all expression of Religion is manifested equally with support from the

			state.
4	Clarity	The distinction between state and religion is clear and set in stone	There is no clear distinction between the state and religion in India.
5	Origin	The concept of secularism first came about in the mid-17th Century concepts of Enlightenment which were enshrined first in the Constitution of France following the French Revolution (5 May 1789 – 9 November 1799)	Although the concept of secularism was rudimentary practised in ancient and medieval India, the term 'secularism' was enshrined in the Constitution of India with the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976
6.	The attitude of the State	The state treats all religions with equal indifference. It does not aid any religious institutions through financial means or taxes them.	The state gives financial aids to a religious institution and taxes them as well
7	Law	A single uniform code of law is used to dispense justice regardless of religious background.	Although the law is the same for all citizens, certain personal laws with regards to marriage and property rights are different for every community. But they are all given equal consideration under the Indian Penal Code