

Difference between Indian Secularism and Western Secularism

As per the Western concept of secularism, religion is treated as a private matter and has no place in public life. There are no public policies related to religion, thereby completely distancing the state from citizens' religiously driven activities and practices. In the Western model, a single uniform code of law is used to pass judgment on all religious matters.

But, this is not true in the case of Indian secularism. The state is very much involved in religious activities, as can be seen from the setting up of religious-driven departments like the Department of Religious Endowments and the Waqf Board. This is strikingly different in the case of Indian secularism. There is no uniform code of law. Even India's personal laws on the matter of marriage, divorce, inheritance, and alimony are decided by an individual's religion. To learn more about this topic, candidates can also follow the right UPSC Books and other UPSC Study Materials.

Key Difference between Indian Secularism and Western Secularism

Let's understand the Difference between Indian Secularism and Western Secularism in detail below.

Western Secularism	Indian Secularism
In the West, the primary separation between political and religious authority was marked as the process of secularization, with religion becoming a matter of personal choice rather than an obligation.	In the Indian concept of secularism, this distinct separation of the state from religious matters is missing.
In Western secularism, the line between the state and religion is very well-defined and obvious.	Here lies the Difference between Indian Secularism and Western Secularism in the sense that there is no clear demarcation between state and religion in India

<p>Another point of Difference between Indian Secularism and Western Secularism is that in Western secularism, all religious institutions and organizations are outside the operation of the state.</p>	<p>But in Indian secularism, the state is neutral to all the different religious groups but is not distinct. There is no wall of separation between state and religion in India. Rather, both state and religion are often seen to intervene in each other's affairs within the parameters as legally and judicially decided.</p>
<p>Secularism in the West is opposed to the open display of religion other than the places of worship.</p>	<p>Indian Government, on the other hand, is tolerant of all and any forms of religion and its display.</p>
<p>In the West, the state cannot engage in any kind of financial assistance to educational institutions that religious groups manage.</p>	<p>But, In India, the state not only provides the right to such religious communities to establish and maintain their educational institutions but also provides them with financial assistance.</p>

