

Civics chapter- 2.
Understanding Secularism.

D. Short-answer questions:

1. Secularism means the separation of State and religion.

2. The aim of secularism is to prevent discrimination on the grounds of religious belief.

3. The Indian State intervenes when a religious practice takes away the constitutional rights of any section of society.

4. The festivals of all religious communities are holidays. This is one way in which the State allows the people of India to practise their religion.

F. Read the case based paragraph and answer the following questions.

1. (c) Secularism
2. (c) Theocratic.
3. (b) 42nd Amendment
4. (a) Discrimination on the grounds of religion.

G. Write in detail.

Ans-1. If the State were to promote a particular religion, people of that religious community could easily use the power of the State to deprive other communities of their rights. They could also commit crimes against other communities without fear of punishment because the police and courts would be controlled by them. This would be against the basic principle of a democracy which is that all citizens are equal irrespective of their religious belief (among other things).

Ans- 2. This statement has the following implications:

- The State neither favours any religious community nor discriminates against any religious community.
- It does not participate in any religious activity or promote any religion.
- It does not interfere with the religious practices of any community so long as such practices are not unlawful or a threat to the integrity of the State or to the right of other communities.

Ans-3. A strictly secular State has nothing to do with religion. In that sense it can be said to have “no feeling for any religion”. The Indian State, however, does intervene when it feels that a particular religious practice violates the rights of some community. It also relaxes laws to accommodate religious practices that do not threaten the State or violate the rights of the people. While taking such steps, it abides by the Constitution, which guarantees equal rights to all citizens. Thus, it can be said to have “equal feeling for all religions”.

