

Secularism



as a concept it pertains to a specific outlook or the level of interaction that is permissible b/w State & religion.

- Historically, Secularism emerged as a reaction to excessive domination & interference of Church in public life, law & administration.
- However, secularism is not a static & one size fit all model. It has been suitably customised by different nations & has been tailored to suit their own demands.

→ Predominantly, there are three major models of secularism

1. Western Model
2. French Model
3. Indian Model

Western Model Originated in Age of enlightenment, a byproduct of 'renaissance'.

- Adopted in USA via :- First Constitutional Amendment act

Basic Tenets :

- 1) Zone of exclusivity
- 2) Thick wall of separation.
- 3) Absolute freedom of consc. & religion.
- 4) No designated state religion.

French Model of Secularism



Based on 1905 law passed by National Assembly



Secularism based on concept of "Laïcité"



French secularism discourages involvement of religion in public sphere.

Article 1 assures the liberty of conscience. It guaranteed the free exercise of religious beliefs. The only restrictions were decreed in the interest of public order. But discourages religion in public life. No showing of religious marks.

- Not only religion is discouraged, but a peculiar way of life i.e- "French way of Life" & "ideas of Republicanism" have been discouraged.
- As a part of "freedom of speech" → "Right to Blaspheme" has also been given. ↓
Anybody can mock any religion, religious authority & religious symbols.