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Q15

Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US constitution.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · GS II · 15 marks · Indian Constitution

Indian Constitution - historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-2/2024/discuss-india-as-a-secular-state-and-compare-with-the-secular-principles-of-the-us-constitution/>

S.R. Bommai v. Union of India

Secularism is part of the basic structure; a State government can fall for using religion as a political weapon.

Everson v. Board of Education

US Supreme Court applied the establishment clause to the States and used Jefferson's wall language.

42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976

Inserted 'secular' into the Preamble; the Court has said the quality was already in the 1950 text.

Engel v. Vitale

School-sponsored prayer, even nondenominational, breached the establishment clause.

Articles 25 to 28 of the Constitution

Freedom of religion with public-order limits, plus State power to regulate economic and social aspects and to throw open Hindu public institutions.

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