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Q5(b)**The Constitution of India was secular even before the word was included in the Preamble. Comment.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · PSIR GS 1 · 10 marks · Salient Features of the Indian Constitution

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Salient Features of the Indian Constitution: The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Constitution of India, 1950

Provided comprehensive substantive guarantees of equality and religious freedom prior to the 42nd Amendment.

Articles 25-28

Guarantee freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion.

Articles 29 and 30

Safeguard the cultural, linguistic, and educational rights of religious and linguistic minorities.

Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)

The Supreme Court established the Basic Structure doctrine, identifying secularism as an unalterable core feature.

42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976

Explicitly inserted the word 'secular' into the Preamble of the Constitution.

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