

## Akand Sitra

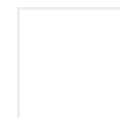
November 3, 2013 at 6:00 pm (Edit)

The statement cannot be any more truer. Even though India claims to be fully secular, that is in its own definition that the government recognizes all religions and treats them equally, there is an inherent bias in its conduct. We cannot explain Godhra riots, Muzaffarnagar riots, Anti-Sikh riots etc., without saying that we have compromised our secular values. The congress' pro minority appeasement, the BJP's pro majority fanaticism is an entertainment show for everyone to watch. Some laws like the Hindu Marriage Act, Shah Bano's case shows that religion cannot be removed entirely from politics, as politics is made out of humans, who follow some or the other religion. True secularism lies in the thinking of politicians and leaders, and not in laws and rulebooks.

### Reply

## Nikhil D

November 3, 2013 at 6:27 pm (Edit)



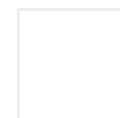
Akand, treating all religions equally doesn't signify bias in any form of conduct. It was adopted after deeply analyzing Indian demographics before and at the time of Independence.

Treating all religion equally by state is considered as a positive attitude towards secularism whereas not considering religion at all in political affairs is treated as negative definition of secularism by state. And indeed positive definition of secularism by state was more appropriate in case of India. We cannot say it as a biased towards some religion. However, case might be different in practicing secularism, but theoretically it's most appropriate path for secularism in India.

### Reply

## Akand Sitra

November 3, 2013 at 6:35 pm (Edit)



I never said that India's constitutional values in having "secularism" is wrong!

I said what is written on paper is quite different from what is practiced in real life. I said there is a bias in its conduct and we have

compromised on the secular values as enshrined in the constitution.

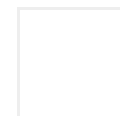
What I was trying to say was, it is not the constitution that would give us implementation of the great ideals, but the behaviour of the people themselves.

If the leaders(politicians) had secular values ingrained in themselves, then this debate would not have occurred. Secularism cannot be brought out by a law, but, the thinking of those who rule brings it out.

[Reply](#)

**Nikhil D**

November 3, 2013 at 6:53 pm (Edit)



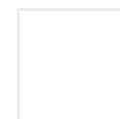
True, that. In practice politicians intertwine secularism and affirmative actions according to their political gains. But, so what if politicians do not take the charge for practicing true secularism, Indian judiciary has the power to interpret the secularism in its true sense. Any act of anti-secularism can be challenged in court of law by a common citizen, if he feels so.

[Reply](#)

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**Aaru**

November 3, 2013 at 6:05 pm (Edit)



I vehemently oppose the premise that India favours Hinduism over its counterparts. If anything, other religions had their fair share in the political and policy discourses. I dare to say that it is infact minorities that are being given more privilege over Hinduism. Excessive secularism as it is being practiced now is as dangerous as religious fundamentalism.

[Reply](#)

**INSIGHTS**

November 3, 2013 at 6:17 pm (Edit)

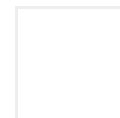


What is your opinion about Article 25 (2) of the constitution which calls for “social welfare and reform and throwing open of Hindu

religious institutions of public character to all classes and sections of Hindus. And goes on to explain that the reference to Hindus shall be construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist religion, and the reference to Hindu religious institutions shall be construed accordingly.

What about Sikh, Jain rights? Why should they be ‘construed’ as Hindus?

[Reply](#)



### **Akand Sitra**

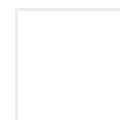
November 3, 2013 at 6:28 pm (Edit)

Maybe that was done for pure administrative reasons and to remove complications.

We should also know that “Hinduism” is much broader than other religions, historically speaking. Buddhism under Gautam, Jainism under Mahavira, Christianity under Jesus and Islam under Mohammad... Who ever was left in the country was classified as Hindu. Hinduism came out of exclusion, rather than some ideology. That is why you can include all tribes, castes etc. who might not follow any religion as Hindus in this country.

Therefore, the inclusion of Jains and Sikhs as “Hindus” might have been done just for ease in paper work in govt offices.

[Reply](#)



### **aaru**

November 3, 2013 at 6:31 pm (Edit)

Sir, then why did B.R.Ambedkar who was not in good terms with hinduism accepted this?

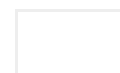
Sikh, jain and buddhist religious practices may vary with hinduism but i think traditionally these religions didn't have any prescribed set of laws whereas christianity, islam which came from foreign land have brought with them their own laws.

Having said that i believe in uniform set of laws and that would be the way to go in future.

[Reply](#)

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**jd**



November 3, 2013 at 6:20 pm (Edit)



I oppose the statement that India is not “truly” secular. The constitution has a fine balance between “safeguard minorities rights” as well as “equal treatment”. Further, the state never give any privileges for Hindus. Event, it reversed the SC judgement in Sha Bano case.

The state, from time to time, should carefully defines where the line for “safeguarding minorities cultural rights” ends and where “equal treatment for all starts”.

[Reply](#)

## INSIGHTS

November 3, 2013 at 6:23 pm (Edit)

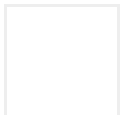


Recently Karnataka government announced Rs 50000/- to Muslim women for their marriage expenses. This is not extended to women of other religions. Do you think it's a secular move?

[Reply](#)

**jd**

November 3, 2013 at 6:30 pm (Edit)

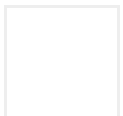


Entitlements solely based on religion are against the spirit of Constitution and practice of secularism. It should be struck by SC

[Reply](#)

**aaru**

November 3, 2013 at 6:36 pm (Edit)

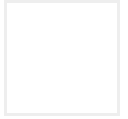


we can add special courts, special subsidies, pilgrimage subsidies, separate marriage laws, instant divorce laws, no alimony for women, Islamic banking too.

[Reply](#)

**Muhammad Imran**

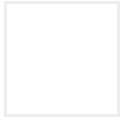
November 3, 2013 at 7:55 pm (Edit)



Islamic Banking is purely voluntary. Nobody is being discriminated. If that has to be blamed then Hindu Hundi system is also wrong.

[Reply](#)**aarur**

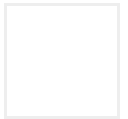
November 3, 2013 at 8:30 pm (Edit)



Imran, what do you mean by voluntary? I don't get your point in comparing islamic banking with hundi system. Pleas enlighten us.

[Reply](#)**Muhammad Imran**

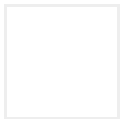
November 3, 2013 at 10:21 pm (Edit)



Voluntary in the sense, nobody is compelled to go to Islamic banking. Neither muslim nor hindu. If someone wishes he can go to these financial services.

[Reply](#)**Akand Sitra**

November 3, 2013 at 6:38 pm (Edit)



We should analyze moves on a case to case basis. Just because it benefits some community doesn't mean that it is anti-secular. Who knows, the Muslim women might have been relatively downtrodden with respect to their counterparts. So, this positive discrimination is a good thing if it helps a community.

[Reply](#)**INSIGHTS**

November 3, 2013 at 7:20 pm (Edit)



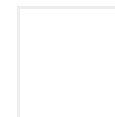
Definitely it's a good move, but it also creates a demand/expectation from poor women belonging to other religions – say poor Christian women, or poor Hindu women, would demand same monetary benefit from the government.

Isn't it valid question to ask why only Muslim women should be given this benefit not others? That too when elections are nearing?

Even Sachar committee report agrees that Dalits are poorer than Muslims. It would have been good if the benefit was extended to all poor women irrespective of their religion. That is what political definition of secularism means.

[Reply](#)**MANISH**

November 3, 2013 at 6:40 pm (Edit)



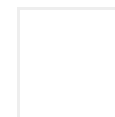
Sir...that could be regarded as an affirmative action taken by the state government.in that case union government is giving haj subsidies to muslims who wanted to visit mecca and it is also promoting manas sarovar yatra for hindus through external affairs ministry. in these cases can we regard that we aren't being secular? i would say no.....

[Reply](#)

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**seema**

November 3, 2013 at 6:23 pm (Edit)



The concept of secularism is a positive concept in which all religion are equal. And state support all religion equally.

And this happened in many cases like we get holidays on diwali as well as on idi,chritmas or any other big festival of any religion. No restriction on religion practices and its adoptation.

But there are some incident which put indian secularism in difficulties.

For example, starting from base, we have ramayana epic in ncert but not khuran! And we show sharswati pictures in every educational institutions.! We have sanskrit not urdu as a subject.

Now come to a bigger senerio, communalism riots are pointing the failure of secularism in india, have different acts for different religion's marriage, issues on inter religion marriage.etc

[Reply](#)

**jd**

November 3, 2013 at 6:40 pm (Edit)



There is Moulana Azad Urdu university in Hyderabad and state provides for Urdu medium elementary schools. You other examples, can you be clear in which state its happening.

Regarding riots, it is seen that major loss was done to the minorities. Perhaps, this is due to the class and religion corelation.

Different acts for different marriage are part fo "Right to practice of religion"

[Reply](#)

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**Neha Mogre**

November 3, 2013 at 6:26 pm (Edit)



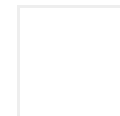
I am not in support of the given argument. If anything it is india is secular country. India has seen peaceful existence of multiple communities. Yes there are few incidents where in communal lines riots takes place but those are works of few opportunistic so called community leaders. Our historical teachings are hindu muslim unity. From bhagat singh to gandhi. A true Indian is secular and humane. Our government provides for kumbh mela and also for haj. We celebrate Deepawali n Id n Christmas wih same enthusiasm.

But we have to take some major steps to change some psyche at the top leadership strata. Thry are the ones who points out that muslims are more non privileged than other communities. It is true about majority of people in india. Just calculating based on community will not do any good . welfare of every citizen of any community is to be tken into account.

[Reply](#)

**shekhar choudhary**

November 3, 2013 at 6:34 pm (Edit)



these days secularism has become buzz word for political parties in India. political outfits exploit fears of different communities in the shadow of secularism. there is competitive secularism at play which is nothing else but competitive communalism, recent muzaffarnagar riots have shown evil design to use secularism as tool of vote bank politics.

as the nation derives its values from constitution, Indian constitution declares India as a secular country but from the values to reality it changes its form and shape.

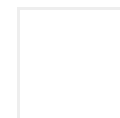
kind of competitive communal politics by every single political party has made Indian democracy as circus show where each day new faces come and show their talent.

though there are always friction between communities living in same space but government role is to act like grease at times and brakes at other to save the whole vehicle turning turtle which is missing in present scenario in India.

article 44 of indian constitution speaks for common civil code for every indian citizen but politics of vote bank has prevented it from being implemented. that for itself speaks how secular our politicians are.

**Reply****Anjali**

November 3, 2013 at 6:36 pm (Edit)



India is truly secular country, as people are true source of Constitution, and we people are secular. We see peoples of different religions living in harmony when there is no incitement for violence, before advent of British there were no communal violence in India, inspite of minority community's rule.

The tradition which laid down by British is followed by Major Parties of country for their power advantages. When we go into deeper of communal violence issue, we find it is mainly instigated for politics. Pitching one community against other is a habit of politicians of the day for vote bank politics.. In Godhra riots, it is clear that political hand was behind it. Anti-Sikh riots were instigated by political leadership.

It is true, there are some grievances because of historical precedence set by some cruel ruler, but who believe in true religion or follow ones religion seriously cannot adhere to violence against other community. As every religion teaches peace and harmony. Usually it is seen that



Muslim or Sikh or Parsi participates in Hindu's festivals and vice-versa. Even in trade or industry same happens.

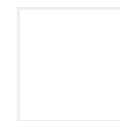
Constitution laid down we are secular, and in normal life we follow secularism. What Dr. Ambedkar said, no matter how best the Constitution is, its utility will depend upon the people who use and work upon its principles. Its upon us which way we use it to prove its worth.

As India is graced with demographic dividend, we can change the gloomy picture of other side of communalism towards a brighter one. By participating in politics and by become a part of government we can address disparities present in various communities by strictly adhering to principles laid down in Constitution. With grass root level awareness and inculcating values of harmony via education, and by promoting mutual beneficial culture, we can take over this problem to nurture our secularism principle.

### Reply

#### **Jics**

November 3, 2013 at 6:53 pm (Edit)

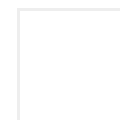


I second your opinion. As the very preamble of the constitution says , India is a secular country. The govt neither supports any particular religion nor does it ill treat any religion. All religions are treated equally. It is only the politicians who are trying to muddy the waters for their survival.

### Reply

#### **Akand Sitra**

November 3, 2013 at 7:00 pm (Edit)



Even Human Rights Charters, UN charters and various constitutions say that there should not be any poverty, no hunger, no fights etc etc. But how far is this true?

What is written on a piece of paper is just an ideal; it is just a proverb; it is just a direction towards life.

Just because the preamble has the word "secular", doesnt make the country secular.

The country is made up of people, mere humans with various emotions and beliefs. Those beliefs should be ideal, those emotions should be on the right path, only then can India be truly secular.

Sadly, now it is not. Those who run the govt also are humans only, even they have some prejudiced beliefs. Until and unless every

human being realizes, understands and embraces the concept of secularism, the country can never be secular. Thus, India, strictly speaking is not secular... YET.

### Reply

#### **aaru**

November 3, 2013 at 7:11 pm (Edit)



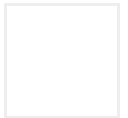
There is no clear definition of secularism in our constitution. unlike the west which largely defines it as the separation of state and church, many Indian politicians suggest it means all religions are equal or the state will treat all religions equally and respect their freedom.

What do you mean when you say “Until and unless every human being realizes, understands and embraces the concept of secularism, the country can never be secular.”?

### Reply

#### **MANISH**

November 3, 2013 at 7:13 pm (Edit)

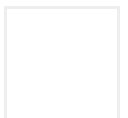


Akand....i don't deny your arguments but before we state that we aren't secular we have to understand the etymological and historical roots of secularism. Even though we have embedded the word secularism in our constitution our makers left it wisely undefined because it was not capable of any precise definition.

### Reply

#### **Jics**

November 3, 2013 at 7:24 pm (Edit)



Secularism is treating all religions equally. It is the govt which is executing this. This needs the support of the people.

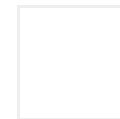
True, preamble is a guide based on which laws are framed. These laws are not violating the principles enshrined in the constitution &

preamble in particular. There is apex court to struck down the law if it violates the basic principles. Yes, i agree people made are up of emotions & beliefs but still they cannot take laws into their hands.

[Reply](#)

**Anjali**

November 3, 2013 at 7:34 pm (Edit)



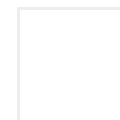
Akand, every human is not equal, for mere some nasty people why should we malign all our country that we are not secular? Don't you see even in communal violence neighbouring Hindu helps Muslim to same and vice versa, there are many stories like this.

Yes politicians are human being but you know absolute power corrupts absolute. They just want to rule means doesn't matter for them.

[Reply](#)

**Anjali**

November 3, 2013 at 7:38 pm (Edit)

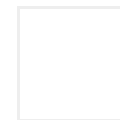


Akand you ask yourself, if there is child fallen on road because of accident, will you ask him religion first them you will help, or you will just take him to hospital. Secularism in our blood. We need to bring it forth to nurture humanity in us.

[Reply](#)

**Azeem**

November 3, 2013 at 7:59 pm (Edit)



Yeah bro you may not ask the religion. But lets say he was wearing Taqiyah(white holy cap), would you help him?

[Reply](#)

**Anjali**



November 3, 2013 at 8:19 pm (Edit)

Azeem, why not. Let me tell u one practical, in my recent journey, in our railway compartment, there is one Muslim family, and I am Hindu, I was in need of charger, I asked them, and they give me, its a small thing, so don't you think people help each other in difficult situation inspite of religion. One important thing they were speaking more fluent Marathi than me, in neighbourhood there is Muslim family we invited them in our festivals and they invited us in their festivals. Even in family functions we participated.

Here on this site, you will see many Hindu names, still Tauseef a brilliant person helping us in science in tech though he is not writing mains this year.

There is Kabir's Doha, Bura jo dekhani mai chala bura na milaya koI,  
jo dekha apne aap me muzse bura na koi. Forgive me for any mistakes in it.  
Its depend on our perception how we see each other and what kind of society we want.

[Reply](#)

### **Akand Sitra**

November 3, 2013 at 8:49 pm (Edit)

Hats off Anjali.

Wish everyone would share the same infectious optimism and make this country a better place. Wish this country would no longer see bloodthirsty religious killings. Wish their wont be any political manipulations which would hamper millions of lives for the greed of a few.

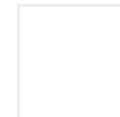
I totally agree with you that secularism is inherent in human nature. We all are human beings first, only then a Hindu or a Muslim or a Sikh.

Hope that small realization spreads across the world. 😊

[Reply](#)

**Nikhil D**

November 3, 2013 at 6:42 pm (Edit)



A very wrong statement, indeed. India, is constantly striving for balancing ‘Secularism’ and ‘affirmative actions for minorities’. Sometimes, the two actions are misjudged and labeled as anti-secular for mere political gains.

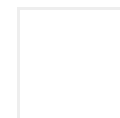
The distribution of freebies, uneven balance of fund allocations for religious affairs (like kumbh mela for hindus, Haj yatra for muslims) create a sense of anti-secular feeling among the masses. The problem may be solved by strictly defining affirmative actions allowed to state (or say, government) by legislation.

[Reply](#)

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**SAURAV**

November 3, 2013 at 6:44 pm (Edit)



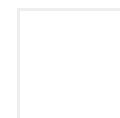
compared to other countries which are multi religious, india is secular in its letter and spirit. pakistan-where not only hindus but also shia muslims get torchured. srilanka-couldnt give equal rights to tamil minorities..etc are examples. it is just the mindset of certain individual leaders that make us feel that india is not secular.a muslim can travel and live in india much safer than he can in any other nation including wester countries. even in middle east people look for whether you are sunni or shia.our freedom fighters always wanted a united india.but the fundamentalist attitudes which led to partition still exist in certain individual propogators minds. only when people could not get benefits from government ,they find solace with religious fundamentalists.indian land,constitution,tradition and mindset is truly secular.other wise we would not have had top leaders from minority sections.good governance with resulted oriented approaches will truly bring back secularistic image of india.

[Reply](#)

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**jd**

November 3, 2013 at 6:47 pm (Edit)



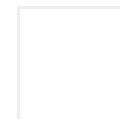
what is your opinion on arrests of mulsims in terrorist cases..but later many acquitted?

## Reply

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### seema

November 3, 2013 at 6:50 pm (Edit)



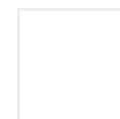
My name is khan and i m not a terrorist.. 😊 why not

My name is patel and i m not a terrorist.

## Reply

### Anjali

November 3, 2013 at 7:45 pm (Edit)



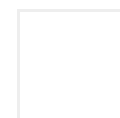
Seema,

because, from history you will see persecution, demolition, violent activity was carried out for the forceful spread of Islam. Some inhuman element doesn't understand true nature and preaching Islam, and in the name of it, carry out violent activity. You know Jinnah, gave the cry Islam is in danger and ordered direct action day. Simply they malign their own religion for some petty gains. So world see who are the Muslim they are cruel. Hindu religion is not used for like this purpose, or even spread of Christianity is peaceful.

## Reply

### tauseefit

November 3, 2013 at 9:03 pm (Edit)



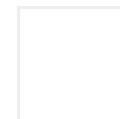
Anjali

I totally disagree by your first statement. How could you say historically such incidence capitalized through Islam? If it was so..India would have been an Islamic state...what about two world wars..did they occur bcz of islamic persecutions..demolitions...etc...Whatever situation we are facing today is a disastrous consequence of filthy diplomacy...we cant address it openly bcz in the name of democracy our rights of unfurling the truth have been chopped off...

Reply

**Anjali**

November 3, 2013 at 10:34 pm (Edit)



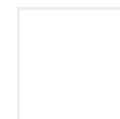
tauseef, sorry if my perception hurt you, I said as per what I read in history in Indian context Mahmud of Gazni is for example, in Sind provience there was forceful conversion to Islam, by Quasim' relative otherwise many people put to inhuman torture. Why Pakistan is a failed state, because few fundamentalist don't accommodate another sect of Islam. In worlds context after 9/11 everyone in US suspicious of Muslims. What Khan said in My NAME IS KHAN, those who truly practice their religion they don't do such activity. No religion teach such violent things.

If you read my full views on today's debate you will understand what I meant to say.

Reply

**tauseefit**

November 6, 2013 at 2:38 am (Edit)



Anjali

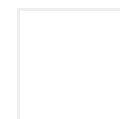
I m not hurt...actually I got it the other way dear...anyway your views are well placed. Dont worry

Reply

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**SAURAV**

November 3, 2013 at 6:52 pm (Edit)



some odd issues does not mean that muslims are not safe.only when muslims get arrested and released it gets public attention.

Reply

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**SAURAV**



November 3, 2013 at 6:59 pm (Edit)



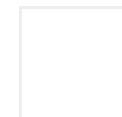
shah rukh khan had to prove his identity in US. but even if he was an ordinary man living in a non disturbed area, there is least chance for a muslim to be stopped in an international airport.it is due to the secular mindset that we uphold.

[Reply](#)

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**tamhin15**

November 3, 2013 at 7:06 pm (Edit)



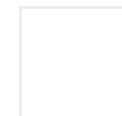
india is secular country people different region do not have any discredmatry thought b/t them but because of political self interest also illetrate peoples they gone for wrong way because of maily political clause self intrest. as be seen in muzzafurpur riots it is clear this is comes true. government is also responsbile for different policy and act for different religious.

[Reply](#)

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**MANISH**

November 3, 2013 at 7:07 pm (Edit)



I don't agree with the above stated premise.....

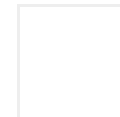
The context in the way the secularism is used across the world is loosely defined. In the western discourse it is to distancing the state from religion and state would not be having any interference in religious matters.But in inida, we stated that all the religious faiths would be given equal status.In our country, we have provided equal footing to agnostics and atheists along with the other people who practice any other religion. Even though we have included the word secularism in our constitution,our constitution makers have left it wisely undefined because it was not capable of any concrete definition. Unless we go into etymological and historical roots we can't have any meaningful discussion of secularism.

[Reply](#)



## Ramdas Kale

November 3, 2013 at 7:36 pm (Edit)



Religion was itself undefined in India. It was not as organized as in Europe. It was integrated with way of life. There were many sects. There was never an attempt to target, demean or harass people belonging to another type of belief. That's why we see several religions, sects, beliefs originated and flourished here. Religion in this sense was not sought to be used for usurping political power. Mughals and Britishers belonged to different religion and were in minority. Still they rule India. While mughals assimilated with Indian culture and enriched it, Britishers never aspired to do so.

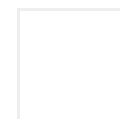
All these historical aspects suggest that India has always respected pluralism of belief systems. That we may call 'Sarva Dharma Sambhava' i.e. Indian version of secularism.

[Reply](#)

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## Ramanjaneya

November 3, 2013 at 8:06 pm (Edit)



According to me, 100% secularism is not possible in India. Might be, we define all secularism as "equal treatment of all religions by the state" in theory. But if we see population distribution (approximately) of different religions:

Hindu – 81%

Muslim – 14%

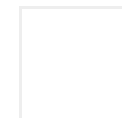
Christian – 3%

Sikh -1.5%

Buddhism, Jainism, others – 1% (approx..)

So if you consider, government is people from different religions. Since it's a democratic country, it's PEOPLE CENTRIC. Since Hindus are dominating in number obviously there might be preference to Hindu practices, beliefs, traditions. We are not completely biased towards any religions. It appears to be Hindu dominating, but INDIA is secular practically.

[Reply](#)



## Vicky..

November 3, 2013 at 8:40 pm (Edit)

This statement cannot be accepted, especially considering the atmosphere present at the time when India gained independence. Do you think in a country like India, with much diversity and bloody strains of partition, the Constitution could have afforded to remain silent on equality of religions ?

For instance, if we suppose Constitution adopted the path which other Western countries have taken, that would have been even more disastrous. If state would have been completely divorced from all religions, then the people in power would have misused to a much more greater extent. It is due to Constitutional safeguard only, that India has restrained against communal balkanization after Independence.

As far as Hinduism is concerned. A socially, educationally and economically backward country which gained independence from atrocities, it is much obvious that people in majority will have more bargaining power. But as the country has evolved much restraint, things have improved.

Post Babri masjid, no country wide communal violence has taken place. The communal riots like Godhra, Muzzafarnagar have been denounced by people widely. The type of vote bank politics which India has evolved, will bring some other issue if not religion, provided that helps its votes. So it is about India's diversity, still prevalent illiteracy and orthodoxy, and tarnished politics which misuses these weak points.

As far as the provision of Article 25(2) is concerned. The mention of Hinduism should not be regarded as promoting a particular religion. If Hindu institutions are open to other classes, so what is the harm in it ??? Why should it be misinterpreted. Even Hindus can visit the institutions of other religions. Constitution does not debar Hindus from it.

As far as Karnataka government giving freebies to Muslim women is concerned. This can be taken paradoxically. If similar favor is given to a ST or SC, then none will protest and consider it as an affirmative action. But the fact that Muslim women are concerned, changes its character from affirmative action towards minorities to an anti-secular move.

On the other hand, Yes one can argue it being an anti-secular move. The state should avoid such freebies to a particular religion and rather universalize it.

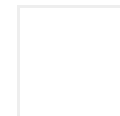
Another argument which I would like to place is that will you consider the Government setting up bodies such as Sachar Commission or recent task forces, also to be an anti-secular move ? They should setup them for other religions also? . The point lies in the fact that everything in India is sensationalized.

India's people, despite much diversity have remained secular. Hindus have given asylum to Muslims in riots and vica versa. It is the din and clutter of politics which brings religion into public discourse.

[Reply](#)

**Kirthi**

November 3, 2013 at 8:57 pm (Edit)

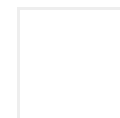


What are your thoughts on the mentioning of cow slaughter in the DPSP? Though Hindus considers cows as sacred for whatever reasons, it's just a part of meal for others. Do you think this provision needn't be included? Any hindu bias?

[Reply](#)

**Vicky..**

November 3, 2013 at 9:45 pm (Edit)



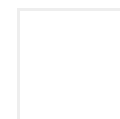
Yes that can be considered as giving importance to Hindu customs. But as I said earlier, In such diverse nation, which a history of partition, such things are bound to happen. But more importantly, India did not gained a religious character as Pakistan after independence. Rights of religion were provided. Rights of minorities were provided. No discrimination was to take place on the basis of religion in opportunities and treatment. These points should hold much more ground than points like cow slaughter.

Although I agree with your point. But considering other facts and rights, You cannot rule out India's secular character.

[Reply](#)

**Kirthi**

November 3, 2013 at 10:12 pm (Edit)



True, The history of india with its peaceful communities coexisting is definitely secular society as well as polity with certain minor exceptions. But cause of the British colonialism and communal history, there has been slow communalization of society. By and large, the state has been largely secular(with some notable exceptions) with good rights for minorities,untouchables and others, but the society is yet to be secularised, as people still tend to form group identities based on primordial loyalties and they respond to the

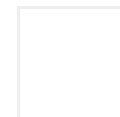
divisive calls of the modern day politicians. This though might be reduced if the society's living standards are increased and true development happens

[Reply](#)

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### **anusha**

November 3, 2013 at 8:44 pm (Edit)



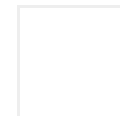
india has always been a secular country...always respected and taken care of minorities..  
right from independence leaders gave attention to minorities , for eg-hindu code bill was to impact only hindus nt other minorities because leaders knew minorities were devastated after independence and then was nt the right time to bring reforms in their culture and religion...  
in india various religion lived in harmony from the beginning...the communal clashes are result of few groups trying to create difference between different communities due to their political advantage...its just the manifestation of british's divide and rule,nowadays used by few groups for their own benifits...

[Reply](#)

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### **Ananya Basu**

November 3, 2013 at 8:44 pm (Edit)



india is designed in such a way that it really has to work hard to be a secular state.though our learned forefathers have tried their best to usher in secularism it still looks like a mirage.we do want to achieve it but first we have to tackle multitudes of problems like caste based politics,regionalism,religious fanaticism and aggressiveness.politicians having a biased agenda are a strict no no despite their efficiency because we cannot afford communal tensions at the cost of economic prosperity.similarly minority entitlements should not be looked down upon as dividing tactics.they are actually designed to create a level playing field but unfortunately people excluded from it treat it as a form of negative discrimination.

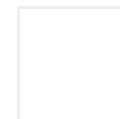
We all should try to create a peaceful coexistence and try to be tolerant towards other religions,cast and culture.it is difficult but not impossible. In my opinion,intercaste,interreligious and interstate marriages should be encouraged because they not only vanish the so called barriers but also try to build in empathy towards each other's religion.such a state will be peacefully secular where all people celebrate all religions and culture.

## Reply

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### **manish**

November 3, 2013 at 9:12 pm (Edit)



I am totally rejecting the view “In its true sense, India is not a Secular country”.

We can not quantify how much secular India is or how much not. In the constitution our constitution makers have added word “SECULAR”, because they know erstwhile situation of the country and they also had known that without secular practice we can not unite India as a whole. We are not small country, we have people from different religions and community, and whenever required state has taken steps to make them rise.

If our constitution has not provided and given the freedom of practice SECULARISM, we might have be counted in list of countries like Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan.

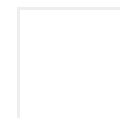
True that some section of society in our India is not believing in secularism practice, but we can not undermine its importance for few benefits as political leaders do for the seat.

## Reply

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### **Chandra**

November 3, 2013 at 9:18 pm (Edit)



India’s vast diversity in population in ethnicity and religion had enforced our constitution makers to include ‘secular’ word to realize it as soul of the constitution. But merely writing a word in onstitution does’nt mean that India is a secular state. Yes, it means that India, having different community people, should always have objective of remaining secular and should not see any communal violence anymore as we saw brutal communal violence in the time of our division history and Independence of India. Being secular is a big responsibility of India- who is having a single community in large number and many others in small-small numbers of population. It’s a responsibility of legislators, executives and judiciary to make a balanced India with ideally secular soul. But what has happened in reality is a bitter truth. India has seen several communal violences- Riot of 1947, Babri Masjid demolition, sikh’s riot -1984, Bahagalpur riots-1989, Gujarat riots etc are innumerable examples. This shows the nature of communal conflicts and it’s really maligned the secular face of India and put a big question mark on being a secular state. In the name of secularism, the minorities are getting reservations and many facilities are being provided but still their conditions are not upgraded in right sense. womens and Dalit’s conditions are oftenly

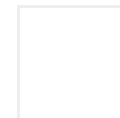
counted as worse than the minorities socio-economic conditions. Don't we see the same colours of communal biasness in the case of women and vulnerable sections of society ...is this not another type of un-secularism?

On the name of secularism in many states civil servants are suspended and in the same name of secularism the politicians are doing election politics and vote-bank politics. On the same name of secularism some are doing appeasement politics and common people are victims of them.. It's a high time to think on poverty irrespective of community, emancipation of all odd practices from society and strengthening of social equality irrespective of caste and community.. then only India will be called a true SECULAR state.

[Reply](#)

## **Sandeep**

November 3, 2013 at 9:44 pm (Edit)



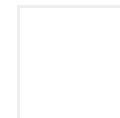
Secularization in India is different when compared to countries like France. These countries witnessed huge discrimination among the clergy and the normal people, hence through class struggles these societies have undergone secularization where the government has no job in religious activities and religious institutions in law making process.

But in India, we have become a secular state without undergoing the process of Secularization. This is the main reason for all the mishaps and controversies. If only India had witnessed secularization things would have been different because ideals born after revolutions have a lasting impact.

[Reply](#)

## **van**

November 4, 2013 at 12:45 pm (Edit)



hi guys and girls .....when such kinds of topic opens up discussion(secularism , religion) we often find the sections gets divided .....(lack of maturity) even among the well educated section....( so utter waste) ....

so lets come into the topic "in true sense , india is not a secular country"

for any country to be truly secular (to me)

- 1)states activities must be secular
- 2)more importantly people in the state should be secular

in this frame work the state has the responsibility to enable people develop secular thoughts(in short state should have maturity,,,,,ie the state should have reached the goal which each and every religion teaches “serving humanity-eg mother therase”)

But the concern is ” state would never become mature ,,,,,,unless people in the state are mature and force state become not to act on religious line”

so rather than focussing on state action to decide whether india is a secular or not (vote banks)..... we must focus how we intrepret religion .....

..... and i dont find the rationale in comparing other countries and say that india is more a secular country .....

.....thus with this focus i am sure to say that “india is not a secular country”

reasons(while saying these....please make sure that i am not an atheist.....i have a religion ....i try to follow it though not in a perfect way)

1)we perceive religion to be an end in itself-at present  
(what i feel is religion is just just an instrument to reach the supreme goal (which is same for every one ).so as it an instrument ..it means ....it has to be used and thrown off.....when its usage is over.....).This means i have tool which may be different from other .....(acc to my needs) thats it... no use in saying that my tool is sooooo powerful(adding lot adjective to it).

2)since we perceive it to be an end .....what we have in our mind is ....whoever uses my tool is good and my friend-( at present )

( this is clearly seen ...in any public foras .....ie people of same religion tend to often club together .....sev other eggs could be quoted)

(what i feel freindship and relationship .....shuould happen across communities) this represents a true secular society .....this is a bit difficult i know but why i suggest so vehemently is that-

consider any religion with its supreme goal and numerous steps to achieve the goal .....what happen in present situation is that .....a person in step 3 /2 close to goal .....befriend with a guy who is way behind the evolution say 8/9.(may be a terrorist)..this hapens bec our focus is on religion .....that is why i strongly say ....atleast we must befriend a person who is on same step even if he belongs to other religion ....(i know we arent that mature to accept relationships)

3)we always tend to accumulate people to our religion(by preaching,or by saying my god said this , my god said that .....);

i make a point clear i am not against preaching.....but if at all i were to preach i would to people belonging to my religion .....the reason is, by being god conscious in our vocabulary .....we fail to make a understand a point that ....our society is a diverse society with several tools (religion) each and every person prefer acc to will..... by going to him and saying that my god is so and so .....we often create a barrier ... amongst us

....Further such attitude demeans our religion bec

====>either we fear that our religion would be sidelined ....by having no followers

====>or religions dont have power to sustain itself

thus problem of conversion starts .....its implication every one knows .....18 ,19th cent what happened?(one of the reason)

THUS WITH SUCH MISTAKES ON OUR PART .....HOW CAN WE EXPECT STATE TO ACT IN A NON PARTISAN MANNER (VOTE BANK)

..... (charity must start from home , reformation should start from within ) we should understand that every religion has its own power to sustain itself.....rather than we becoming a vocal follower of our religion we should follow our religion by mind (not by heart) .....why mind ? bec only through the 2nd dimension of mind(it has 4 dimension)( ie INTELLECT we could perceive god/supreme truth/nature (applicable to all religion ).....still a lot to express ....hope so i have crossed the word limit .....

THUS INDIA A SECULAR COUNTRY OR NOT, LIES IN OUR HAND(hope i havent targetted any religion and wish to be anonymous about my religion) thanks guys and girls

[Reply](#)

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**Bhanu**

November 5, 2013 at 1:39 am (Edit)



Hello Sir,

Can you please tell would participating in debates would help in general studies or only for the essay exams?

Thanks

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