

## **UNDERSTANDING SECULARISM**

### **QUESTIONS to be done in CW**

#### **Answer in a sentence**

- Q1. Name the religious community that was persecuted in Hitler's Germany.
- Q2. Name the political concept that refers to the separation of religion from state.
- Q3. On what basis can the Indian state intervene in religious affairs?
- Q4. How did the French state interfere in religious matters in February, 2004?
- Q5. What is generally the most important reason behind religious based discrimination practiced in many countries?

#### **Answer the following**

- Q6. What are the different ways by which the Indian state prevents religion based domination?
- Q7. Why is it important to separate religion from state?

**ANS:** It is important to separate religion from state because of the following reasons –

For the successful functioning of the democracy. This is important so that the majority religion does not dominate over the religions in minorities.

To give fundamental right to every individual to interpret their religion as they want, to exit from their religion and embrace another religion.

Q8. Which three objectives does the Secular Indian State try to achieve?

Q9. How does the Indian state maintain distance in religious matters?

Q10. Discuss in brief the policy of non intervention by the Indian state over the religious affairs.

**ANS:** The Indian state in order to respect the religious sentiments of different religions and allow every religion to practice their religion freely follows the policy of non-interference in religious affairs.

However, the state makes certain exceptions in this case. The wearing of helmets while driving two wheelers is mandatory in many cities of India. However, as wearing a pugri (turban) is central to the Sikh religion, they can drive without helmets. The Indian State thus does not interfere with this.

Q11. In what way does the Indian state support religious communities by intervention?

Q12. How is Indian secularism different from American secularism?