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DECONSTRUCTING THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF INDIAN SECULARISM

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ABSTRACT

The idea of secularism in India appears to be borrowed from the western idea but in reality, this seeming resemblance cannot deny the distinctiveness of Indian secularism. The underlying theme of Indian secularism is to provide democratic foundations to its multicultural society. Moreover, it also attaches a great significance to the idea of social justice ensuring of their diverse social locations. Secularism is an essential ingredient of the multicultural political system of India. Indian secularism adopted a non-majoritarian multicultural perspective which recognizes the culturally specific needs of different communities. It is based on principles of neutrality and tolerance with a vision of cohesive and integrated society. The idea of Indian secularism is deeply rooted in its own socio-cultural and historical traditions. Although the state doesn't have its own religion, it is also not hostile to any religion. The research paper delineates the secular distinctiveness of the Indian nation-state and various contestations and debates among scholars for its effectiveness in the Indian society.

Key Words: *Secularism, Constituent Assembly, Indian Constitution, Minority Rights, Religious Tolerance*