



THE BOOK REVIEW OF “SECULARISM, INDIA AT A CROSSROADS”

Law

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ABSTRACT

The term secularism, state shall not discriminate between two or more religious, or state will not promote particular religious. Another meaning that every citizen have right to choose his own choice religion, or he can promote and propagate his religious freely. This concept is accepted by The Constitution of India. Means the term secularism is directed related with the nation's fundamental document i.e. The Constitution of India. The term secularism is pronouncing in India, in political event, in social even and in religious event, it is also we are reading in news papers, magazine, books etc. Researcher try to cover complete book review of Secularism, India at a Crossroads by Madhav Godbole.

KEYWORDS

The Constitution of India – Secularism.

BOOK NAME : SECULARISM, INDIA AT A CROSSROADS.

AUTHOR : MADHAV GODBOLE

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GENRE : POLITY \ LAW

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Madhav Godbole (b. August 15, 1936) took voluntary retirement from the Indian Administrative Service in March 1993, when he was union Home Secretary & Secretary, Justice. Earlier, he was Secretary, Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Secretary, Urban Development, Government of India, and Chairman, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, and Principal Finance Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. He worked in the Asian Development Bank, Manila, for five years.

Dr. Godbole has written 22 books on public policy and other issues of which 13 are in English. His last four books are: The God Who Failed: An Assessment of Jawaharlal Nehru's Leadership (2014), Good Governance Never on India's Radar (2014), Secularism: India at A Crossroads (2016), and Indira Gandhi—An Era of Constitutional Dictatorship (2018).

Several of his books have been translated in Marathi. The Hindi translation of his book on secularism was published in February 2018. He is currently researching for his next book, India's Quasi-Federalism: Fault lines, Challenges and Opportunities.

His essays have been published in several English and Marathi compilations. He has written over 450 articles in English and Marathi in leading newspapers, journals and periodicals. He wrote a weekly column for two years in Marathi daily Loksatta. His Marathi books have been awarded six prizes for non-fiction, intellectual writing. Dr. Godbole was chairman of several government committees including Enron power project, good governance, and management of India's international borders. He has an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Bombay University and an M.A. in development economics from Williams College, Mass., USA.¹

SUMMARY OF BOOK:

The Book, the term secularism which is interpreted in very basic language i.e. in laymen language as well as legal language also. It is very good reading material provided by the author. The book is divided in VI chapter (1) India's Secularism – Defining the Indefinable, (2) The Minority Syndrome, (3) Are these Signposts of Secularism?-I, (4) Are

these Signposts of Secularism?-II, (5) An Increasingly unsecular society, (6) The way ahead, Appendix I to IV, abbreviations, Bibliography, acknowledgements and Index.

The book is, heart touching sentence is mentioned in preface first paragraph i.e. “The login name for the Modi government is development, but the password is Hindu”. , “It is argued by the BJP that the true meaning of Secularism is panth nirpeksha (natural to sect), and not dharma nirpeksha (natural to religion)”. Author also ask one legendary question “What have we done about our secularism? Even this question is also landmark question for all of us.

In the chapter of introduction, author discusses major three topics (1) Hindutva ideology-its origin and rapid spread (2) A many-sided assessment of India's secularism and (3) the portents for the future. Also quoted Jawaharlal Nehru's quotation, “The danger to India, mark you, is not communism. It is Hindu right-wing communalism.” In the Chapter No. (1) India's Secularism-Defining the Indefinable, focus on major four elements (1) The composition of the Constituent Assemble. (2) Anointing the Constitution as secular. (3) Problems of defining secularism and (4) How the apex court has looked at secularism.

In the chapter No (2) The Minority syndrome, in this chapter six critical questions is raised like (1) Who are the minority? (2) The minority fixation in India (3) The right to freedom of religion (4) Constitution-making-some salient features (5) Religious endowments and (6) The National Minority Commission.

In the chapter No (3) Are these signposts of Secularism?-I, in this chapter author dealt with the six issues like (1) Hindu code-the cry of a religion in danger (2) Uniform civil code-time to make a beginning (3) The enactment of the Muslim women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act (4) The propagation of religion (5) The protection of minority educational institutions; and (6) The banning of cow slaughter.

In the chapter No (4) Are these signposts of Secularism?-II, these chapter also clear four part (1) Non-separation of religion from politics (2) Babri Masjid demolition-a national shame (3) Major communal riots in the recent past-anti sikh riots in 1984; Bombay riots in December 1992 and January 1993 and Gujarat riots in 2002. (4) Communalism and communal violence.

In the Chapter No (5) An Increasingly unsecular society, author looks four aspects like (1) Secularism in action (2) Recommendation of three committees. (3) The highly disturbing manifestations of alienation and (4) Where are we headed?

In the chapter No (6) The way Ahead, the author start with Nelson Mandela's sentence “It always seems impossible until it's done”. In this chapter author given some prescriptions to readers.

CRITICAL EVOLUTION OF BOOK:

The book can read, realise, understand, criticize and helpful in research work. In short we can say that the book is all in one. But in this book

might be one chapter direct related to ground level survey / opinion or public views on the said topic. Also author must write short overall conclusion on the topic as well as on the book.

RESEARCHER'S VIEW:

Researcher done his Ph.D. on the Meaning and scope of Secularism under Indian Constitution, hence it is the subject of research as well as academic. Researcher fined very good relevant quotation in the book. Researcher also fined very good comments of honourable Supreme Court of India on the Secularism. Book author make his best efforts to serve the fruitful meaning of Secularism with various angles. Author also gives opinion / speeches of well-known constitutional experts like H.M. Seervai etc. and retired Justice of Supreme Court of India. Author interpreted the Constitution of India with reference to Secularism in this book with relevant articles and IPC /Cr.P.C. / Evidence Act are also mention in the relevant places. In this book's author try to reach bottom of the various communal violence in the India. Indian various political parties work, speech, action, reaction and scheme are also covered in this book very well. Reports of various commission are also covered in this book and NHRC references are also supports the subject. i.e. before independent to till date these all the factors on the topic SECULARISM are interpreted in this book.

REFERENCES:-

1. <https://www.policefoundationindia.org/our-people/ipf-members/madhav-godbole>
2. Madhav Godbole, Secularism, India at a Crossroads (2016). 1st Edn. (First Print) (Rupa Publication India Pvt. Ltd.)