

Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Uttarakhand 2024 Bill

Everything You Need To Know

Why In The News?

- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami Tabled The State's Proposed **Uniform Civil Code Bill** In The Legislative Assembly. The Bill Seeks To "Govern And Regulate The Laws Related To Marriage And Divorce, Successions, Live-in Relationships, And Matters Related Thereto."

What Is The UCC?

- Currently, Personal Laws In India Are Complex, With Each Religion Following Its Specific Regulations. The Idea Of The UCC Is To Create **A Set Of Uniform Laws Applicable To All The Communities** In India When It Comes To Personal Laws On Marriage, Inheritance, Divorce, Etc.

Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code Bill 2024

- **Tribal Communities:** This Bill's Provisions Will **Not Apply To Tribal Communities**. The Bill Says, "Nothing Contained In This Code Shall Apply To The Members Of Any Scheduled Tribes." Given The **Unique Customary Practices Of Tribal Communities**, Many Have Criticised The Idea Of The UCC Over The Years.
- **Live-In Relationships:** The Bill Makes It "Obligatory For Partners To A Live-in Relationship Within A State, Whether They Are Resident Of Uttarakhand Or Not, To Submit **A Statement Of Live-in Relationship To The Registrar** Within Whose Jurisdiction They Are So Living."
- The Registrar Will Then Conduct A "**Summary Inquiry**" To Ensure That The Relationship Does Not Fall Under Any Of The Categories Mentioned Under Section 380. This Includes: "Where At Least One Of The Persons Is A Minor" And "Where At Least One Of The Persons Is Married Or Is Already In A Live-in Relationship".

- For Couples Who Have Been In A Live-in Relationship For More Than A Month And Have Not Submitted The Statement, Punishment Has Been Prescribed With Imprisonment Up To Three Months Or A **Fine Up To Rs 10,000 Or Both**.
- Also, The Registrar Will Have To Be Informed In Case Of Termination Of The Relationship Through The Submission Of A “**Statement Of Termination Of Relationship**”.
- **Prohibits Bigamy**: The Bill Lists Five Conditions For Marriage. It Says A Marriage May Be Solemnized Or Contracted Between A Man Or A Woman If Those Conditions Are Fulfilled. The First Condition Is: “Neither Party Has A Spouse Living At The Time Of The Marriage”, Thus **Prohibiting Bigamy Or Polygamy**.
- **Marriage Age Of Men And Women**: The Third Condition Under Section 4 On Marriage Relates To The Minimum Age For Marriage. The Marriageable Age For Men And Women Remains 21 And 18, Respectively.