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## Key Features of Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code Bill | Uttarakhand | 10 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand state legislature** passed the [Uniform Civil Code \(UCC\) Bill](#) after a state-appointed panel submitted its final report.

- Uttarakhand is the **first State in India to implement such a legislation after Independence.**

### Note

Following Uttarakhand's footsteps Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have appointed committees to initiate the formulation of a UCC.

### Key Points

- The Bill proposes a uniform law on **marriage, divorce, inheritance of property, and cohabitation for all citizens, regardless of their religious affiliation**, while excluding the tribal community from its scope.
  - This stems from [Article 44](#) of the Constitution, which mandates that the state "shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a UCC throughout the territory of India."
    - The provision is a part of the [Directive Principles of State Policy](#) (Part IV of the Constitution), which although not enforceable but play a pivotal role in the country's governance.
  - The Bill aims to regulate **live-in relationships by imposing an obligation to register them.**
    - In case, couples in a **live-in relationship** do not submit their statement, they will be served a notice following which criminal prosecution can be initiated against them.
  - **Section 4** says that "neither party has a spouse living at the time of the marriage", thus prohibiting [bigamy](#) or [polygamy](#).
  - Men and women have been accorded similar rights with respect to divorce.
  - **Section 28** prohibits the initiation of divorce proceedings unless one year has elapsed since the date of marriage.
    - However, an exception can be made if the petitioner has suffered "**exceptional hardship**" or if the respondent has exhibited "**exceptional depravity**".
  - Existing Muslim personal law practices governing marriage and divorce such as [nikah halala](#), [iddat](#), and [triple talaq](#) have been criminalized under the Bill without explicitly naming them.
  - The Bill extends **equal property rights for sons and daughters** across all classes.
  - The Bill leaves out members of the [LGBTQIA+](#) community from its ambit and applies only to heterosexual relationships.
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## Violence in Uttarakhand's Haldwani | Uttarakhand | 10 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a violence erupted in **Haldwani, Uttarakhand**, after the demolition of an **illegal madrasa**.

### Key Points

- The demolition was carried out by the **municipal corporation** in accordance with a court order that declared the madrasa as an **encroachment on government land**.
- The demolition **triggered protests and clashes between two communities**, resulting in injuries to several people, including police personnel.
- The state government imposed a **curfew** and issued a **shoot-at-sight** order in **Haldwani** and other sensitive areas to prevent further violence.
- **Shoot-at-sight Order:**
  - It is a term that refers to an order that authorizes the police or other security forces **to shoot anyone who violates the order**, without any warning or attempt to arrest them.
  - This order is **used only in extremely rare and dangerous situations**, when authorities feel there is a grave threat to public peace and security, and when lethal force is absolutely necessary.
  - Some of the legal provisions that allow the issuance of shoot-at-sight orders are:
    - **Section 46 (2)** of the **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC)**, which enables the use of force in the course of arresting a person who resists or evades the arrest.
    - **Section 144** of the **CrPC**, which enables the use of wide powers while dealing with urgent cases of **"apprehended danger"** or nuisance through the issuance of orders.
    - **Section 81** of the **Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC)**, which says that nothing is an offense if it is done with the knowledge that it is likely to cause harm, but without any criminal intention, and in good faith for the purpose of preventing or avoiding other harm.
    - **Section 76** of the **IPC**, which exempts such acts, if done by a person who believes himself to be bound by law to do it.

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## Transforming Major UP Cities into Solar Hubs | Uttar Pradesh | 10 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled plans to develop **17 major cities** of the state as **solar cities**, along with **Ayodhya and Varanasi**.

### Key Points

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh is making efforts to establish Ayodhya as the **state's first solar city**.
  - Preparations are underway to inaugurate a **large-scale solar plant** in **Varanasi**, further cementing **Uttar Pradesh's status** as a **frontrunner** in the **solar energy sector**,
- A remarkable **14 MW of solar energy** is already being generated in **Ayodhya**, while an additional 40 MW capacity has already been installed and the production is poised to start soon".

- The [Solar City project in Ayodhya](#) encompasses the installation of over **2,500 solar-powered** street lights, underscoring the city's commitment to sustainability.
    - The CM of UP inaugurated a **solar boat** in **Ayodhya**.
  - Ayodhya also **boasts solar-powered amenities** such as **ATMs** and **solar trees** adorning its **40 intersections**, epitomizing the city's embrace of **renewable energy solutions**.
  - The focus now shifts to **Varanasi**, where plans are to install [rooftop solar plants](#) across government buildings.
    - Varanasi is slated to witness the installation of **25,000 rooftop solar plants**, positioning it as a beacon of **solar innovation**.
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## Rajasthan Interim Budget | Rajasthan | 10 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the [interim budget](#) was presented by the **Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari**, who is also one of the two **Deputy Chief Ministers** of the state.

### Key Points

- State's FM announced **₹1,000 crore** to establish, upgrade **schools, colleges, hospitals** in Assembly constituencies. She also announced [CM Vishwakarma Pension scheme](#) for **laborers** and **street vendors**.
- The budget also announced the **Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan-2**, a scheme to create **5 lakh water harvesting structures in 20,000 villages** in the next four years, with a provision of **Rs 11,200 crore**.
- The budget proposed to recruit **70,000 posts** in various departments to fill the vacancies and provide employment opportunities.

### Interim Budget

- An Interim Budget is **presented by a government that is going through a transition period or is in its last year in office** ahead of general elections.
- The purpose of the interim budget is to **ensure** the continuity of government expenditure and essential services **until the new government can present a [full-fledged budget](#) after taking office**.

### Vote on Account

- A vote on account, as defined by **Article 116** of the Indian Constitution, is a grant in advance for the central government to meet **short-term expenditure** needs from the **Consolidated Fund of India**, generally lasting for a few months till the new financial year.