



# Key Features of Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code Bill

## 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.

