

Uttarakhand Cabinet Approves UCC Draft Report

Why in News?

On 4th February 2024, Uttarakhand took one more step towards becoming the first state after independence to implement <u>Uniform Civil Code</u> (**UCC**), after the state cabinet approved the UCC panel's draft report.

Key Points

- The report will be tabled in the assembly on 6th February 2024, as the ruling party has 47 seats in the 70-member house, the UCC bill is set for a smooth sailing.
- Uniform Civil Code is a common set of laws that will supersede customary laws across
 faiths and tribes, and govern issues such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and
 maintenance.
- According to the Constitution of India, UCC is a part of the non-justiciable directive principles of state policy.
 - As per the 2011 national census, Uttarakhand has a 13.9% Muslim population, with most people from the community living in the **Terai region.**

Uniform Civil Code

- It is envisaged to provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- Article 44 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavor to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
 - Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
 - The purpose behind Article 44 is to strengthen the object of "secular democratic republic" as enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution.

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