



Government's Crackdown on Alleged Love Jihad and Land Jihad | Uttarakhand | 14 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttarakhand government has initiated action against [Love Jihad](#), [Land Jihad](#), and [forced conversions](#), amid rising concerns over [demographic changes](#) in the state.

Key Points

- Concerns over demographic changes were highlighted, especially in regions such as **Purula, Dharchula, and Nandnagar**.
- **Uttarakhand's Population:** Approximately 11.1 million, with [Hinduism](#) being the dominant religion (82.97%), followed by Islam (13.95%) and Christianity (0.37%) according to [Census 2011](#) and 2023 projection estimates.
 - While the state is experiencing urban migration and growth, concerns over demographic changes have heightened tensions, particularly in religiously sensitive areas.
- **The Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018:**
 - This law requires people who convert religions to declare that the conversion was not done through force, coercion, or other fraudulent means.
 - It also allows the authorities to declare marriages null and void if they were performed solely to convert a girl from one religion to another.
 - **Stringent Provisions:** The Act makes unlawful religious conversion a cognizable and non-bailable offense, criminalizing conversion through force, greed, or fraud.
 - **Greater Punishment:** Offenders can face a jail term ranging from a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 10 years for illegal religious conversion.
 - **Higher Fines:** A mandatory fine of Rs.50,000 is imposed, with offenders potentially paying up to Rs.5 lakhs as compensation to the victim