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## UCC Rules in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 22 Jan 2025

### Why in News?

Recently, **the Uttarakhand government** approved the rules for [the Uniform Civil Code \(UCC\)](#) and plans to **issue a gazette notification for the legislation by the end of January 2025**, paving the way for its implementation.

### Key Points

#### ▪ Key Provisions of UCC:

- The UCC, **passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly in February 2024**, excludes tribal communities from its ambit.
- It **bans practices such as halala, iddat, and talaq**, which are customs under [Muslim Personal Law](#).
  - It ensures **women receive equal rights** in matters of property and inheritance.
- The Code mandates the **registration of marriages and divorces**, with non-compliance leading to deprivation of government benefits.
- Stringent provisions are in place for **unregistered live-in relationships**, though children born from such relationships are recognized as legitimate.

#### ▪ Implementation Measures:

- The government has set up an **online portal to register marriages, divorces, inheritance rights, live-in relationships, and terminations of live-in relationships**.
- Citizens can access their data and application status via mobile phones or at home.
- **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** have been authorized for online registration.
  - In remote areas without internet access, CSC agents will provide **door-to-door registration services**.
- [Aadhaar-based registration](#) and tracking via email and SMS have been introduced for simplicity and convenience.
- An **online complaint registration mechanism** has also been established.

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# UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

All sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a National Civil Code - the Uniform Civil Code.

## THEY COVER AREAS LIKE



Marriage



Divorce



Maintenance



Inheritance



Adoption



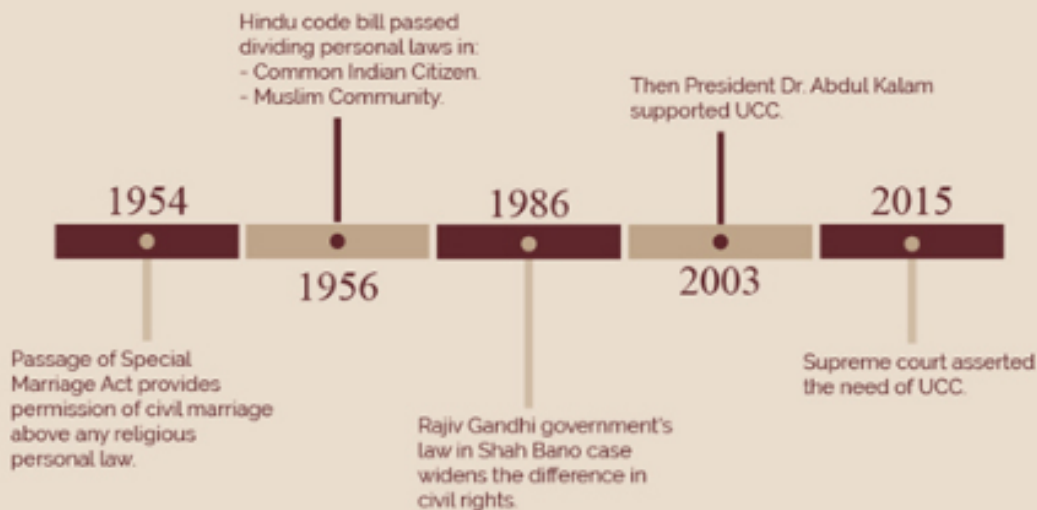
Succession of Property

It is based on the premise that there is necessarily no connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society.

**"UCC refers to a common set of laws governing civil rights of every citizen."**

Article 44 of Directive Principles sets duty of state for implementing UCC.

## TIMELINE



The dialogue for UCC was started by the Law Commission in the year 2016

# Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary | Uttarakhand | 22 Jan 2025

## Why in News?

Recently, [the National Board for Wildlife \(NBWL\)](#) rejected the Uttarakhand government's proposal to permit [soapstone mining](#) on agricultural land at Pokhani, located near [the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary \(KWLS\)](#).

## Key Points

- **Wildlife Sanctuary and Endangered Species:**
  - The Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary is home to endangered species like the [Himalayan musk deer](#) and [Himalayan tahr](#), both listed on the [IUCN Red List](#).
- **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) Guidelines:**
  - While the precise boundaries of the sanctuary's [eco-sensitive zone \(ESZ\)](#) have not been defined, the environment ministry's guidelines state that **an area of 10 km around protected zones is considered an ESZ in the absence of defined boundaries.**
- **Proposal for Soapstone Mining:**
  - **In 2023, the Uttarakhand authorities presented a proposal** to permit soapstone mining in Pokhani, located within the ESZ of Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Environmentalists' Reaction:**
  - Environmentalists hailed the rejection as a **significant step in protecting the sanctuary and its surrounding areas.**
  - They emphasized that the decision reflected an **awareness of the risks posed by mining operations** to the region's ecology and local residents.
- **Concerns Over Unregulated Mining in Uttarakhand:**
  - Growing concerns over unregulated [mining activities](#), particularly in Bageshwar district of Kumaon, have led to a stronger stance against such operations.
  - Reports from the [Uttarakhand Disaster Management Authority](#) revealed severe damage caused by mining, including cracks in 200 houses, roads, and agricultural fields across 11 vulnerable villages.

## National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- National Board for Wildlife is a statutory Board constituted officially in 2003 under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**
  - It replaced the Indian Board for Wildlife, established in 1952.
- The **NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister** and is responsible for promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests.
- The board is **'advisory'** in nature and can only advise the Government on policy making for conservation of wildlife.
- It serves as **an apex body for the review of all wildlife-related matters** and for the approval of projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- The standing committee of **NBWL is chaired by the Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change.**
  - The standing committee approves all the projects falling within protected wildlife areas or within 10 km of them.