

TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(01 February 2025)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- UNIFORM CIVIL CODE OF UTTARAKHAND
- GUILLAIN BARRE SYNDROME (GBS) OUTBREAK
- MCQs



UNIFORM CIVIL CODE OF UTTARAKHAND

- On January 27, 2025, Uttarakhand became the first Indian state post-Independence to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for all residents, excluding
 Scheduled Tribes and natives who have migrated out of the state.
- A 5 member expert committee, led by Former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana
 Prakash Desai, was formed to draft the legislation.
- The final report was submitted to **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** on **February 2, 2024**.
- After that, the UCC Bill was passed in the Uttarakhand Assembly during the February 2024 session.
- However, Goa remains the only state in India where a UCC is already in force,
 based on the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867.

WHAT IS A UNIFORM CIVIL CODE?

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) refers to a single set of laws that govern personal
matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption for all citizens, regardless
of their religion.

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- It is mentioned in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution as a Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP).
- However, the implementation of UCC is not legally enforceable by the courts.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- British Era: The British introduced uniform criminal laws but allowed communities to follow their own personal laws.
- Constituent Assembly Debates: Proponents of the UCC, including B.R. Ambedkar, argued that it was essential to promote equality, while some Muslim leaders expressed concerns about its impact on their personal laws.

SUPREME COURT'S & LAW COMMISSION'S STANCE OF UCC

SUPREME COURT

- Shah Bano Case (1985): The court recognized the need for UCC and remarked that Article 44 had remained a "dead letter".
- Sarla Mudgal Case (1995): The court emphasized the need to implement the UCC for uniformity and equality.
- Shayara Bano Case (2017): The Supreme Court declared triple talaq unconstitutional and recommended UCC for marriage and divorce reforms.
- José Paulo Coutinho Case (2019): The court praised Goa's UCC and called for its adoption across India.

LAW COMMISSION

In 2018, the 21st Law Commission, led by former Supreme Court judge Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan, released a consultation paper on "Reforms of family law", saying that the formulation of a Uniform Civil Code is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage.

KEY FEATURES OF THE UTTARAKHAND UCC

Ban on Certain Practices	Halala, iddat, and talaq (Muslim Personal Law practices) are banned.	
Equal Rights for Women	Ensures equal rights in property and inheritance.	
Online Registration	Mandatory for marriages, divorces, and live-in relationships via ucc.uk.gov.in.	
Aadhaar-Based Verification	Ensures authenticity; Al-based translation in 22 languages.	
Integration with Departments	Data integrated from 13+ government departments, including police and courts.	
Tatkal Facility	Emergency services available for a nominal fee.	

- Halala: a practice in which a woman is required to marry another man and then divorce him before she can remarry her previous husband.
- Iddat: a period of waiting for a woman after divorce or widowhood before she can remarry.
- Talaq: a form of divorce in Muslim Personal Law where a husband can divorce his wife
 by pronouncing the word "talaq" 3 times.
 - In August, 2017, the Supreme Court of India declared the practice of Triple
 Talaq unconstitutional.



 Following that, in 2019, the Parliament passed the "Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019", making it a punishable offense effective from August 1, 2019.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Marriages	 Marriages since March 26, 2010, must be registered within 6 months Post-UCC marriages must be registered within 60 days. 	
Live-in Relationships	 Must be registered within 1 month of implementation or establishment. Either partner can end the relationship online/offline. Pregnancy during live-in must be reported within 30 days of childbirth. 	
Divorce/Annulment	Requires details like marriage registration, court case number, and children's details.	
Will Registration	Can be done via form, uploaded document, or a 3-minute video.	

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

Role	Appointed Officials	
Sub-regis trar	Mostly Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs).	
Registrar	Municipal Commissioners, CEOs of Cantonment Boards.	
Registrar- General	Secretary of the Department.	

PENALTIES IMPOSED

Violation	Action
First-time	Warning issued.
Repeat Violations	Fines imposed.

- Applications are examined within 15 days (or 3 days in emergencies).
- Appeals against rejections can be made to the registrar within 30 days, and further to the registrar-general within 30 days.

SIGNIFICANCE OF UCC

- Unity and Belonging: The UCC would help unite all citizens and promote a sense of belonging.
- Reducing Conflicts: It could reduce conflicts arising from different personal laws.
- Principles of Equality: The UCC would support the principles of equality, fraternity,
 and dignity.
- Equal Rights: It would provide equal rights in marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and maintenance.
- Women's Rights: The UCC would help women challenge unfair practices and ensure their fundamental rights.
- Modernizing Laws: It would modernize outdated practices in personal laws.
- Human Rights: It would remove practices like triple talaq, polygamy, and child marriage that violate human rights.

- Transparency: The online portal ensures transparency and reduces bureaucratic hurdles.
- Precedent for Other States: It sets a precedent for other states to adopt similar reforms.

CHALLENGES & CRITICISMS

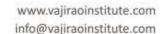
- Exclusion of Scheduled Tribes: The exclusion of Scheduled Tribes raises questions about the universality of the UCC.
- Privacy Concerns: Mandatory registration and Aadhaar-based verification may raise privacy issues.
- Religious Practices: The ban on certain religious practices has been criticized as an infringement on personal laws.

HAS ANY COUNTRY FULLY IMPLEMENTED UCC?

No country fully implements a uniform civil code across all areas of law, but many have adopted uniform laws in specific areas such as criminal law, contract law, and property rights.

Examples:

France: Napoleonic Code (1804) applies uniformly to all citizens, covering property,
 civil rights, and family law, with minor regional exceptions.



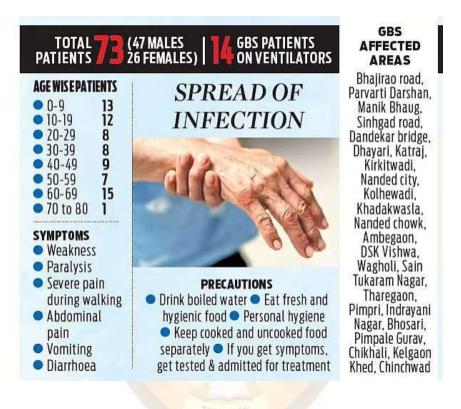


- Germany: German Civil Code (BGB) (1900) unifies personal and civil law for all citizens, with some special provisions for certain groups.
- Turkey: Turkish Civil Code (1926), inspired by Swiss law, replaced Islamic law for family matters, though some Islamic law elements remain.
- United States: Federal laws are unified, but family law varies by state.
- Egypt: Civil code applies to all citizens but incorporates Islamic law in family matters.
- Indonesia: Legal system combines civil, customary, and Islamic law; efforts made to harmonize laws for greater equality.

GUILLAIN BARRE SYNDROME (GBS)

- Outbreak Context: Pune has been facing a significant outbreak of Guillain-Barré
 Syndrome (GBS), with over 100 suspected cases recorded.
- This rare autoimmune disorder involves the immune system attacking the **peripheral**nervous system, leading to symptoms like muscle weakness, numbness, and in severe cases, paralysis.
- e Bacterial Link: The outbreak is linked to Campylobacter jejuni, a bacterium commonly associated with contaminated food and water. Campylobacter jejuni was identified as the primary cause of the first cluster of GBS cases.
- Preliminary Symptoms: Patients often exhibited gastrointestinal symptoms, including vomiting, diarrhoea, nausea, and gastroenteritis, before the onset of the neurological symptoms associated with GBS.
- Fatality: One suspected fatality has been recorded among those affected,
 highlighting the severity of the outbreak.

SOME STATISTICSWHAT IS GBS?



WHAT IS GBS?

- GBS is a rare autoimmune disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks
 the peripheral nervous system, leading to tingling, muscle weakness, and
 numbness. If severe, it can cause paralysis in the arms and legs.
- Causes: It can be triggered by viral or bacterial infections, including Campylobacter
 jejuni, as well as Zika virus, cytomegalovirus, and influenza.
- Symptoms:
 - Early signs include tingling or numbness in the fingers or toes.

 ADDRESS:

- Muscle weakness often progresses to paralysis in severe cases.
- Other symptoms can include difficulty breathing, blurred vision, and muscle pain.
- Incidence: The global incidence of GBS is approximately 1-2 cases per 100,000
 people, with a slightly higher occurrence in adult males.
- Recovery: Most GBS patients recover with appropriate treatment, but recovery can be slow, and some may experience lasting effects.

WATER CONTAMINATION & LINK TO GBS

- Source of Contamination: The outbreak in Pune is linked to waterborne contamination, specifically from the bacterium Campylobacter jejuni, which is typically found in uncooked food and contaminated water. This highlights an underlying issue with the safety of water supply in the affected areas.
- Health System Weakness: The outbreak emphasizes the vulnerability of urban systems and the fragility of infrastructure in preventing the spread of waterborne pathogens. Inadequate water treatment, maintenance lapses, or poor surveillance can allow such pathogens to spread, affecting large populations.

 Affected Areas: Areas along Sinhagad Road have seen a rise in GBS cases, and the situation underscores the need for stronger public health measures and water safety protocols.

TREATMENT & MANAGEMENT OF GBS

- Treatment Methods:
 - Plasma exchange (also called plasmapheresis) and intravenous
 immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy are the standard treatments for GBS.
 - These treatments are most effective when started early, within two weeks of symptom onset.
- Recovery: Most patients recover with appropriate treatment, but the recovery process can vary from a few weeks to several months, depending on the severity.
- Importance of Early Detection: Since GBS progression can lead to severe complications such as respiratory failure, early detection and timely intervention are essential for reducing morbidity and mortality.

RAPID RESPONSE TO THE OUTBREAK

Surveillance and Water Sampling: Rapid response teams have been deployed in
Pune to conduct extensive water sampling and community surveillance. This is
essential for identifying contamination sources and preventing further spread.

- **Central Assistance**: A **central team** from the Union Government has also been sent to assist local health authorities in managing the situation and containing the outbreak.
- Health Awareness Campaign: There has been an emphasis on public health messaging, urging residents to avoid contaminated water and practice better hygiene to reduce the risk of infection.
- Prevention of Further Outbreaks: The outbreak demonstrates the urgent need for consistent monitoring of water quality and ensuring that appropriate measures are in place for safe drinking water and food hygiene.

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROPOSAL

- Need for New Water Treatment Plant: To address the growing demand for clean
 water in areas like Sinhagad Road, Vadgaon Budhruk, and surrounding villages, the
 Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has proposed the construction of a new water
 treatment plant.
- Project Details:
 - The proposed plant will have a 125 MLD capacity.
 - Estimated cost: Rs 207 crore.

- The project is part of the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, aimed at urban rejuvenation and improving infrastructure.
- Approval Pending: The proposal has been pending approval from the Union
 Government for over a year. The local civic body is awaiting approval from the
 Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Intended Impact: The new plant will provide clean water to areas like Narhe, Dhayari,
 Ambegaon Khurd, and others, which have seen a rise in population due to the merger of new villages into the PMC limits in 2021.

ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY IN GBS AFFECTED AREAS

- Additional Treatment Plant for GBS-Affected Areas: The PMC has proposed building a separate water treatment plant near Khadakwasla Dam to cater to areas directly impacted by the GBS outbreak, including Nanded, Nandoshi, Kirkatwadi, and Khadakwasla.
- Land Acquisition: The PMC is working with the Irrigation Department to acquire the necessary land for this project, ensuring a quicker response to the growing water demand and contamination issues in the affected areas.

Decommissioning of Old Infrastructure: The 54-year-old Parvati water treatment
plant is being demolished due to leakage and insufficient capacity. A new plant is
planned to replace it, with interim water supply from the Warje water purification
plant located 10 km away.

LONG TERM MEAURES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Urban Water Infrastructure: There is a need for consistent investment in urban water infrastructure to ensure safe drinking water and avoid contamination-related outbreaks. This includes regular monitoring and updating of water purification systems.
- Public Health Awareness: Local authorities should increase efforts in public health
 education to raise awareness about avoiding waterborne diseases and the
 importance of good hygiene in preventing outbreaks.
- Governance and Accountability: Local and state governments must be proactive in addressing infrastructure shortcomings and ensuring timely maintenance and upgrades to urban water systems.

MCQs

- 1. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:
 - 1. Uttarakhand becomes the first state in India to implement a Uniform Civil Code.
 - 2. Implementing a Uniform Civil Code is mentioned as a DPSP in the Constitution.
 - (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Both 1 & 2
 - (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (B)

- 2. The Uniform Civil Code aims to establish uniform laws for which of the following aspects:
 - 1. Marriage
 - 2. Religious practices
 - 3. Inheritance of property
 - 4. Adoption
 - (A) Only 1 & 2
 - (B) Only 1 & 3
 - (C) Only 2,3 & 4
 - (D) Only 1,3 & 4

Ans. (D)





- 3. Which of these countries has completely implemented a Uniform Civil Code?
 - (A) USA
 - (B) France
 - (C) Turkey
 - (D) None of the above

Ans. (D)

- 4. Which of these are symptoms of GBS?
 - 1. Paralysis
 - 2. Gastrointestinal issues
 - 3. Muscle weakness
 - (A) Only 2
 - (B) Only 1 & 2
 - (C) only 2 & 3
 - (D) All of the above

Ans. (D)



- 5. Which of these microorganism pathogens can cause GBS?
 - 1. Bacteria
 - 2. Virus
 - (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Both 1 & 2
 - (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)

