

Title - The Emerging Landscape of Uniform Civil Code in India: Comparative State Practices, Constitutional Challenges and Future Prospects

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“The Principle behind the Uniform Civil Code is that all state should be equal before the law irrespective of their religious belief”-Prof Tahir Mahmood ¹

ABSTRACT

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India remains significant and long-standing questions. reflecting diverse perspectives, interests, and concerns. The UCC aims to unify personal laws across religions, promoting gender equality, secularism, and social justice rooted in Constitutional debates and placed in Directive Principles (Article 44). This paper undertakes to compare with legislative frameworks, scope, and statutory designs of active UCC initiatives across Indian states (such as the enacted Uttarakhand UCC, the historical Goa Civil Code, and proposed draft codes and other country's civil code. It contains about overview and requirement of UCC explaining its purpose in advancing gender equality, secularism with constitutional perspectives, social justice. In this study the author has incorporated the objectives and methodology for data collection. Furthermore it highlights the role of Judiciary and Law commission reports for emerging force behind establishment of comprehensive code and post implementation across India. The researcher has presents some challenges even implementation of UCC like chances of fragmentation, exemption of one section, conflict of centre-state laws, political opinion. Finally, the paper reviews the current status, ongoing initiatives, and recent developments, while also considering the future outlook for advancing the UCC agenda. It argues to propose a balanced policy framework that protects India's socio-cultural practices and diverse personal law traditions.

Keywords :.Emerging Landscape ,Uniform Civil Code ,India ,Comparative state practices,Challenges , Future Prospects

1.INTRODUCTION

India presently follows multiple personal legal systems applicable to different religious communities. Such diversity reflects India's multicultural ethics and simultaneously produced legal inequalities, particularly concerning gender justice and equal protection of laws. ²Article 44 of the Constitution directs the State to frame or set up Uniform Civil Code. In this way, Article 44 attempts to remove religious, caste and tribal discrimination. ³The constitutional debate surrounding UCC essentially concerns balancing under Articles 14 and 15, Articles 25 and Article 21, Article 44. The UCC has been discussed since independence period but remains unimplemented. Judicial pronouncements and legislative attempts have kept the issue alive. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is applicable in India which make comprehensive personal laws for all religion. Now Every religion have their own marriage, Divorce maintenance and adoption ,Guardianship Act. Despite loopholes and resistance, UCC is seen as a step toward true secularism, equality, and justice. As Dr. David Frawley noted: “Uniform Civil Code is the hallmark of democracy and used to reduce social division.”⁴

¹ <https://politicsforindia.com/feasibility-of-uniform-civil-code-ucc-in-india/>

² <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/uniform-civil-code-explained-6261308/>

³ Narender Kumar, “Constitutional Law of India “, Allahabad Law Agency, Reprint ,2019, p-562

⁴ <https://recordoflaw.in/implementation-of-uniform-civil-code-by-uttarakhand-assembly-comparative-analysis-step-towards-development-or-downfall/>

2. Background Behind UCC

According to the report of Lex Loci Report of October 1840, the urgent requirement of the uniform code of civil and criminal matter is suggested and personal laws of different community should be kept separated.⁵ Earlier in Hindu society women are dominated by male and child marriage, wife burnt with the deceased husband, discrimination against women, widows and daughters, denying inheritance, husband remarry and divorce becomes custom. In 1772, Warren Hastings made rules that: Hindu and Muslim follow their own rituals and practices thus like child marriage and polygamy continued. The Britishers are reluctant to reform their personal law. Reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jyotirao Phule attempts for social transformation. Reformers like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar has been approached several law for women protection and finally passed such as Hindu Widow Remarriage Act (1856), Married Women's Property Act (1923) which gives women rights over property, Hindu Inheritance Act (1928) etc. Women's groups like the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) have claimed for gender equality. B.N Rau Committee has been proposed some reformation for civil code on Hindu. Post independence period, Jawaharlal Nehru has suggested for UCC.

2.1 Constitutional Assembly Debates

During 1946–1950–When India's Constitution has been written, UCC becomes a debatable issue. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has supported for introduction of UCC to remove caste system and gender discrimination. At last Post-Independence Hindu Code Bills (1955–56) mention about women rights in case of marriage dissolved, divorce, succession etc. In the year 1955, four major Hindu Act has been enacted. Special Marriage Act (1954) permits registration of marriage of irrespective of religion, race, sex, caste etc and maintenance, inheritance. At the same time, Article 44 in Constitution is inserted to set up uniform civil code within the territory of India. The Indian Constitution provides right to religion (Articles 25–28). In the British era, personal laws are governed for Hindus and Mohammedan community. As Goa is regulated under Portuguese rule, so it has own civil code.

In the Schedule VII of the Indian Constitution, the three list are included. Entry 5 of the Concurrent List both central state have power to make laws of family related matter. Thus Article 254(1) provides that if there is a conflict between centre and state laws then Union law will prevail. Some states have already enforced their own Uniform Civil Code (UCC) that makes problem with national level code and has commenced legal and political obstacles.

2.2 Parliamentary Debate

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has been debatable issue in India since British period. During 2019, the Supreme Court in the Jose Paulo Coutinho v. Maria Luiza case has told Goa as a “shining star” for making of UCC. The court also motivate India to set up implementing as a national level.⁶

⁵ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Civil_Code#British_India_\(1858%E2%80%931947\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Civil_Code#British_India_(1858%E2%80%931947))

⁶ <https://recordoflaw.in/implementation-of-uniform-civil-code-by-uttarakhand-assembly-comparative-analysis-step-towards-development-or-downfall/>

The BJP Govt. Proposes bill for UCC 1998, 2019, and 2024 but not approved in 2019 and 2020. The 22nd Law Commission has asked for citizen opinions. In July 2023, Justice Krishna Murari has told UCC could be beneficial but it must be discussed widely before implementation.⁷ This code governs the same rule for all religion. But controversy arises on Muslim laws such as practices on multiple marriage and dissolution of marriage by one party. This bill has been opposed by multiple parties. Thereafter Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiating to enforce this during June 2023. Various religion have follow their own custom, usages. e.g. Shudras permits widow remarriage. In case of Muslim women get unequal status such as succession, property right. But the Shariat Act 1937 mandate to follow the written rule for Nikah, talaq, inheritance etc.

The issue of UCC became quiet. When Shah Bano Case 1985 raises the debate on whether India should have followed same law for all religion. The Supreme Court has upheld that maintenance right is applicable for all religion as per Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code and has suggested that India should have a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and it will help to build up unity and integrity between citizens.

In 2017 the Supreme Court prohibited instant triple talaq. Further, the government has declared it in the year 2019. Law Commission Reports 2018 highlights that UCC is “not necessary or desirable”. It recommends to include public feedback for or against this code.

2.3 Opposition after Shah Bano Case

The All India Muslim Board are in favour of Muslim personal laws. They have announced that the government want to control over minorities. According to them, personal law is their traditional customs and belief and UCC urges to force Hindu principles on all the community. Mohammedan administrators including Khan, started a national awareness to protect their customary laws.

The main problems of our country is the diversity of various religion. As we know all the religion have their own personal laws. Women's rights groups say UCC is mainly about protecting women's rights, gender justice. Jurists say UCC violates religious customs/ usages. Law professional proposed to amend laws instead of substitute all personal laws.

3. Need of UCC

Existing various personal legislation makes confusion. It is better to frame single civil code for the whole country. Promotes national unity and integrity. Ensures gender equality, women right and protect human right through reforming discriminatory practices (e.g, polygamy, unequal inheritance). It does not restrict religious freedom. Strengthen secularism and simplifies and modernizes the legal system. Enhances India's image as a progressive democracy. Improves judicial efficiency by codifying and unifying laws. Thus UCC brings transparency and accountability in legal mechanism. To make it enforceable follow Judicial pronouncement, need public feedback, expert opinion, national campaigns.⁸

4. Research Objective

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Civil_Code

⁸ <https://mrrjournal.in/uploads/articles/MRR20253912.pdf>

- To analyze statutory variations in how different state-level models regulate core personal law domains.
- To evaluate the constitutional validity of state-enacted UCCs and trace the evolution of Article 44 (Directive Principles of State Policy).
- To examine how judicial pronouncements have shaped the contemporary legislative push for uniformity.
- To analyze the administrative and procedural challenges of enforcing a UCC, focusing on state-mandated registrations (e.g., of marriages and live-in relationships) .
- To mention some future prospects of comprehensive UCC, identifying whether a singular code is viable given the legal and political lessons learned from comparative state practices.

5. Research Questions

- I. In what ways do the statutory provisions of the enacted Uttarakhand UCC, the historic Goa Civil Code, and Assam and Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and Proposed draft of West Bengal differ or converge in their regulation of marriage, divorce, succession, and cohabitation?
- II. Does the single enactment of a UCC by individual states infringe upon India's federal structure, ?
- III. How do these legislative initiatives impact the customary protections of tribal and indigenous communities?
- IV. What are the role of judiciary to make constitutionally valid of state level code ,if any conflict arises?
- V. What legal and administrative frameworks can be proposed to harmonize with Article 44 and India's deeply entrenched socio-cultural and religious diversity?

6. Research Methodology

The study is based on mixed research with analytical ,qualitative and quantitative approach to analyse the legal enforcement of personal laws .In doctrinal research ,study is conducted with help of the Indian Constitution provision, several personal laws ,review scholars Article, case laws, law commission report and several newspaper report and other states UCC . In non doctrinal research the researcher has discussed and taken the opinion of stakeholders of some High court Advocates,academician,law students of different community.To understand the "comparative state practices,"analysis focusing on selected states.

6.1 Data Collection Method -

Both primary and secondary data are gathered and the tools are using by Questionnaire, Semi-structured Interviews, Focus Group meeting and discussion with Advocates. All the relevant data is studied and analyse with Quantitative and Qualitative method.

6.2 Sampling Techniques

Stratified Random Sampling is based on different religious community based on the objectives of the study.The stakeholders are selected randomly from the identified strata.

Purposive Sampling is used for comparison with various selected states civil code. In this study the respondents are selected based on the professional skill ,experience, knowledge such as judicial officers, selected advocates,law teachers , and students and citizens.

6.3 Data Collection Tools-

The following techniques are used:

Structured Questionnaire have collected from citizens, law students, advocates and teachers to collect quantitative data.

Semi-structured Interviews has taken with judicial officers and face to face discussion with Advocates .

Focus Group Discussions -with some law colleges students.

7.Judicial Initiatives in support of UCC-

In Shah Bano Case (1985): The Court has awarded maintenance to a divorced Muslim woman beyond the iddat period,It has held that the absence of UCC affects national unity. The court has criticized political hesitation in enacting reforms.

Jordan Diengdeh v. S.S. Chopra (1985) case ,the apex court has suggested for enforcement of UCC. Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995) punishes bigamy due to conversion of religion. The Court focuses that personal laws based on religion brings inequality and need for legislative measures to ensure justice.

Ahmedabad Women Action Group (AWAG) v. Union of India (1997): The Court has directed to the Government for implementation of UCC's role in reform.

Maharshi Avadhesh v. Union of India: The Court has upheld to execute UCC which is not only the duty of the judiciary but the parliament .

The central Govt. yet has not passed UCC for whole country due to diversion of religion and cultural usages . The Supreme Court has consistently supported the idea of UCC for equality and unity. The landmark cases (Shah Bano, Sarla Mudgal) shows judicial concern for women's rights and national integration, while models like Goa demonstrate feasibility. However, community resistance, political hesitation, and fears of cultural erosion remain major hurdles.⁹

John Vallamattom V. Union of India AIR 2003 SC 2902 in this case the majority of the court has observed that common civil code be enacted as it would solve such problems.Article 25 Shows religious freedom and Article 44 divests religion from social and personal law.¹⁰

Shayara Bano (2017) popularly known as Triple Talaq case Court has quashed the triple talaq not constitutionally valid and claim the urgent need of UCC.

⁹ <https://supremetoday.ai/issue/supreme-court-cases-uniform-civil-code-article-44>

¹⁰ Dr.J.N.Pandey ,”Constitutional Law of India”,Central Law Agency,Allahabad ,57th Edition,2020,p. 498

Shabnam Hashmi Case: The Court has approved adoption under secular law but mention adoption is not a fundamental right and give warning against overstepping its powers on UCC. During 2015, Justice Vikramjit Sen has said the government: “If you want UCC, have it. But you must take a decision soon.”¹¹

Since 2018, the 21st Law Commission of India has circulated a paper on “Reforms of Family Law”.

'SUBJECT RELEVANT & IMPORTANT'	
➤ In 2018, the 21st Law Commission had said UCC was “neither necessary nor desirable at this stage” ➤ The panel had held wide consultations and reviewed 75,000 responses over two years ➤ Current Law Commission seeks responses afresh, within 30 days. Responses can be submitted on Commission's website, through email or through post. Also open to in-person consultations	 Since more than 3 years have lapsed from the date of issuance of the said consultation paper (of 21st Law Commission, in 2018), bearing in mind the relevance and importance of the subject and also the various court orders... the 22nd Law Commission considered it expedient to deliberate afresh over the subject — Law Commission

¹² 14th June, 2023, the 22nd Law Commission of India has asked for public feedback.”¹³

8.UCC in Other Country

A study of France, Turkey offers valuable insights for India's UCC debate. In France, the Napoleonic Civil Code of 1804 is a civil rule applicable to all religion. This proves the unity and integrity of a country. Turkey during 1926, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk has changed the Islamic Sharia law and frame the Swiss Civil Code for Marriage .¹⁴

Tunisia is an illustration of Islamic country which has uniform civil code such as The Personal Status Code 1956 and ensures gender justice. It prohibits monogamy, female right of matrimonial and succession issue. Though Germany has no UCC but Civil Code (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch) regulates family matter within the jurisdiction of the country.¹⁵

Tunisia is the Arab-Muslim world which has its own Tunisia's Code of Personal Status (CPS) of 1956. The main features of this code -Prohibition of multiple marriage, Equal right of women in marriage and inheritance etc.

Egypt has already changed some areas of personal law even though it is not in existence. It permits Christian women can apply for divorce before a court of law, marriage and

¹¹ <https://www.nayalegal.com/judicial-outlooks-on-ucc-a-review-of-landmark-supreme-court-judgements>

¹² <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/law-panel-issues-public-notice-for-views-on-uniform-civil-code/articleshow/101002250.cms>

¹³ <https://www.sconline.com/blog/post/2023/06/16/law-commission-decides-to-solicit-views-on-uniform-civil-code-legal-news/>

¹⁴ <https://thelegalquorum.com/uniform-civil-code-comparative-analysis-of-india-and-foreign-jurisdictions/>

¹⁵ <https://book.iledu.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/28.pdf>

succession rights given to non Muslims. President Hosni Mubarak's attempts to provide some reformation to Muslim who are deprived under personal laws.

Despite of major christian people ,Brazil has codified Civil Code of 2002. Brazil's legal mechanism is based on civil laws which are influenced by European models.

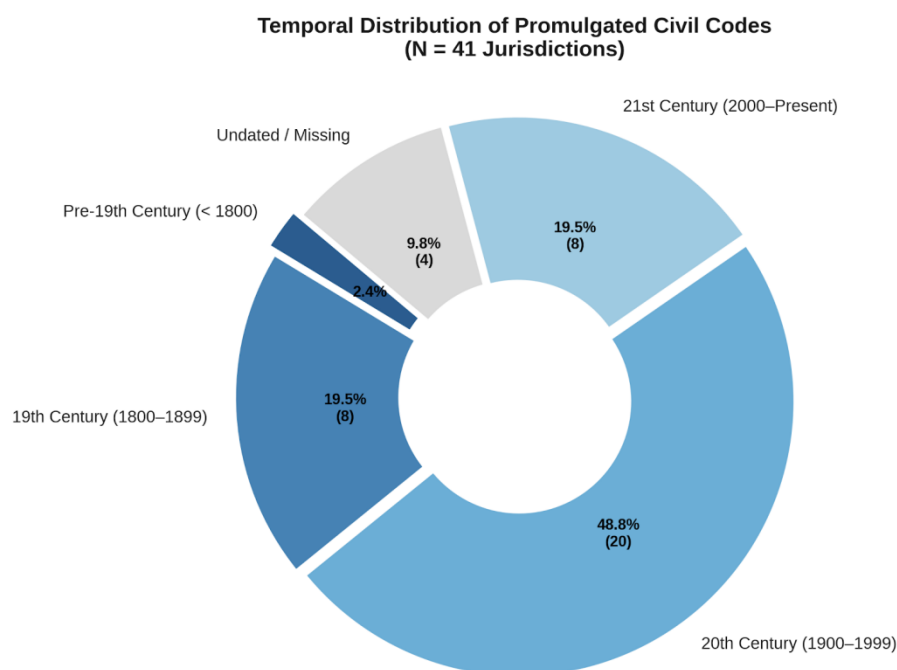
Turkey has approved its UCC in 1926 and make social transformation through on polygamy and right to equality of in case of marriage and divorce, property.¹⁶ There are some country wise Civil code is shown here -

Country	Civil Code	Year in Force
Argentina	Civil and Commercial code of Argentina	2015
Austria	Allgemeines bürgerliches Gesetzbuch	1812
Albania	Civil Code of the Republic of Albania	1994
Armenia	Armenian Civil Code	1998
Brazil	Código Civil (1916 Civil Code)	1916
Brazil	Código Civil (2002 Civil Code)	2002
Cuba	Código Civil (1987 Civil Code)	1987
California	California Civil Code	1872
Catalonia	Codi civil de Catalunya (Civil Code of Catalonia)	—
Chile	Código Civil (Civil Code)	1855
Czech Republic	Občanský zákoník (Civil Code)	2012
China	民法典, Minfadian (Civil Code)	2020
Egypt	Egyptian Civil Code	1948
France	Code civil des Français (French Civil Code)	1804

¹⁶ <https://ijsdr.org/papers/IJSDR2507203.pdf>

Country	Civil Code	Year in Force
Georgia	ს ა ქ ა რთვ ე ლოს ს ა მ ოქ ა ლ ქ ო კ ოდე ქ ს ი (Civil Code)	1997
Germany	Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (Civil Code)	1900
Greece	Αστικός Κώδικας (Civil Code)	1946
Indonesia	Burgerlijk Wetboek (Civil Code of 1838)	1848
Italy	Codice Civile (Civil Code)	1942
Japan	民法, Minpō (Civil Code)	—
South Korea	민법 Minbeop (Civil Code)	1958
Latvia	Civillikums (Civil law)	1937
Louisiana	Louisiana Civil Code	1825
Macau	Código Civil (Civil Code)	1999
Nepal	Muluki Ain (Civil Code) Act, 2018 (Civil Code)	2018
Netherlands	Nieuw Burgerlijk Wetboek (Civil Code of 1992)	1992
Philippines	Civil Code of the Philippines	1950
Poland	Kodeks cywilny (Civil Code)	1964
Portugal	Código Civil (1868 Civil Code)	1868
Portugal	Código Civil (1966 Civil Code)	1968
Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico Civil Code	1930
Quebec	Code civil du Québec (Civil Code of Quebec)	1994
Romania	Civil Code of Romania	2011
Russia	Civil Code of Russia	1994

Country	Civil Code	Year in Force
Spain	Código Civil (Civil Code)	1889
Sweden	Civil Code of 1734	1736
Switzerland	Zivilgesetzbuch (Civil Code)	1907
Taiwan	民法 (中華民國) (Civil Code)	—
Thailand	Civil and Commercial Code	—
Turkey	Türk Medeni Kanunu (Civil Code)	2001
Ukraine	Civil Code of Ukraine	2004 ¹⁷



9.UCC in Indian states -

Uttarakhand is the first state to implement 2024–2025 UCC. But Scheduled tribes are not come under this code. Gujarat is the second state to pass UCC in the year relates with all matrimonial, succession and live-in aspects. Assam Third state, and first time in Northeast

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_code#List_of_civil_codes

India and Madhya Pradesh is the another state passed UCC in this year excluding Scheduled tribes. West Bengal Govt. has proposed to implement UCC very soon.

9.1 Uniform Civil Code of Uttarakhand Act, 2024 is a law that creates one set of personal rules for everyone in the state, no matter their religion, caste, gender, or sex. It covers issues like marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance and maintenance. Uttarakhand is the first state in India to pass such a law. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami called it a “historic moment” for the country. This code applies to all residents of Uttarakhand, except members of Scheduled Tribes, who can continue following their own customary rituals.

UCC protest against unfair custom like : monogamy , early marriage, triple talaq etc .This code provide equal distribution of property between man and women , marriage above 18 years age limit for bridegroom. Marriages can be performed through religious ceremony. Dissolution of marriage can be possible after following proper procedure. Compulsory registration of Live-in relationships. Maintenance of both abandoned wife and children from valid marriage are allowed. This code mention father remains legal guardian, mother custodian and not applicable for ST. The penalty includes fine of non registration of marriages and imprisonment for not registered in live-in relationships.

First state to pass UCC, positioning itself as a progressive reformer to reduce social polarization (interfaith marriages, inheritance disputes). Promotes social cohesion while respecting cultural diversity (marriages can still follow customs). This civil code sets a precedent for other states and aligns with national goals of modernization.

Key Provisions of this code includes -

In case of marriage and divorce, Age limit for all—18 years for female , 21 years for male. Compulsory registration of marriage, Live-in Relationships, some grounds of divorce are mentioned here. Maintenance should be provided to the legal heir. Equal Right of inheritance, banned on multiple and child marriage. Deserted partners are entitled to maintenance. Jurisdiction of the court to determine the cases. ST members are excluded from this code.¹⁸

9.2 Gujarat has passed the Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Act, 2026 during March for matters relates to as marriage, divorce, succession, inheritance, adoption and live-in relationships irrespective of all religion. Gujarat has banned of polygamy, same rule of inheritance , deserted partners can claim maintenance is allowed. Scheduled Tribes are to be followed under their own customs.

9.3 Assam Govt has enacted on 27th May, the Uniform Civil Code, Assam, Bill, 2026 and it is first state in Northeast India. It makes a common civil code for all. More or less similar provision like Uttarakhand . Children born from registered live-in relationships gets legal status. 6th Schedule communities are not included this code.¹⁹

9.4 Goa Civil Code is a continuation of the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867. In this code , Joint property right, half share of divorce spouse. succession rule are written. Some limitation are given for sale of property , Prohibition on bigamy. Under the Codes of Usages

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Civil_Code_of_Uttarakhand_Act,_2024

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Civil_Code_of_Assam_Act,_2026

and Customs of Gentile Hindus of Goa, Hindu male can perform more than one marriage under certain condition.²⁰ At the time of 19th century era, Goa has followed under Portuguese rule, common law family tradition. But now UCC has framed with regulation-

Equal share of self acquired income and Co-ownership of property between legal heirs. Compulsory registration of births, marriages, and deaths. Banned of plural marriage and triple talaq. It prevent parents from disowning child from their property's rights.

In spite of all these aspects Goa civil code is not strictly implemented such as Hindu men still practices polygamy as per their customs.²¹

9.5 The Madhya Pradesh has also enacted the Uniform Civil Code 2026 to make uniform laws irrespective of all religion. Registration of marriage and live in relationship mandatory within one month. Children have legitimate right of live-in-relationship.²²

9.6 West Bengal Government has move forward and initiated with discussions regarding a proposed UCC bill in July for implementation UCC in West Bengal. The Committee has been headed by Suvendu Adhikari, CM who has declared to enforce a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the Assembly very soon. The bill is prepared by a committee chaired by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.²³ It cover all issues of marriage, live in relation similar to others states. Certain communities like Kudmi are excluded from this code.²⁴ The proposal for enforcing Uniform Civil Code in West Bengal would replacing religion-specific Acts.²⁵

The comparative analysis of various states of India are discussed below in the chart-

Uttarakhand UCC VS Gujarat UCC

Uttarakhand UCC	Gujarat UCC
Uniform Civil Code of Uttarakhand Act, 2024 — in force from 27 January 2025	Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026 — Assembly passed 25 March 2026; assent/comment pending
☒ Marriage: common framework; compulsory registration; monogamy/polygamy restrictions ☒ Divorce: uniform grounds and procedures; maintenance/alimony protections	

²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goa_Civil_Code

²¹ <https://articles.manupatra.com/article-details/Decoding-the-Uniform-Civil-Code-A-Critical-Analysis-of-Uttarakhand-s-Landmark-Legislation>

²² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Civil_Code_of_Gujarat_Act,_2026

²³ <https://www.uniindia.com/~west-bengal-set-to-table-uniform-civil-code-bill-in-special-assembly-session/States/news/3889231.html>

²⁴ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/west-bengal/west-bengal-govt-to-introduce-uniform-civil-code-bill-soon/article71161778.ece>

²⁵ <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2026/05/09/upsc-editorial-analysis-uniform-civil-code-ucc>

☑ Inheritance: gender-equal succession; common civil framework ☑ Live-in: registration required; protections for children and deserted partners ☑ Scope: applies broadly, with Scheduled Tribes excluded ⚠ Challenge: privacy and administrative implementation, and balancing uniformity with customary practices.	☑ Marriage & Divorce: uniform framework; compulsory registration of marriages and divorces ☑ Polygamy/Bigamy: prohibited; marriage requires that neither party has a living spouse ☑ Inheritance: equal inheritance rights irrespective of gender; uniform succession ☑ Live-in: registration and formal termination procedures; child/partner protections ☑ Adoption: uniform framework for adoption and guardianship ☑ Exemption: Scheduled
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	Tribes and constitutionally protected customary groups △ Challenge: constitutional assent and reconciling uniformity with protected customary autonomy.
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NATIONAL / COMPARATIVE IMPACT

- Uttarakhand is the only model in this comparison that is clearly operational; Gujarat remains at the legislative/assent stage.
- Both use compulsory registration and seek common rules for marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships.
- Both protect gender equality while retaining exemptions for Scheduled Tribes and protected customary communities.
- Key constitutional questions concern Article 21 privacy, religious/customary autonomy, and the scope of state experimentation.

Assam UCC VS Goa Civil Code

Assam UCC	Goa Civil Code
Uniform Civil Code, Assam Bill, 2026 — Assembly passed 27 May 2026; assent/commencement pending ☑ Marriage: common conditions; 21 years for men and 18 for women; registration required ☑ Divorce: uniform grounds and registration requirements ☑ Inheritance: equal rights for sons and daughters; uniform succession ☑ Live-in: mandatory registration; children receive legal/property protections; maintenance ☑ Polygamy/Bigamy: prohibited; Bill provides legal consequences ☑ Exemption: Scheduled Tribes and Sixth Schedule protected communities/areas ⚠ Challenge: tribal autonomy, privacy concerns around live-in registration, and constitutional assent/implementation.	Portuguese-derived civil-law regime; historically introduced under Portuguese rule; distinct from newer UCC statutes ☑ Marriage: civil registration framework; community property principles ☑ Property: marital community property; generally equal division on dissolution; spouse consent for certain transfers ☑ Inheritance: children receive a compulsory share, distributed equally among children ☑ Antenuptial agreements: may alter property arrangements and preserve separate ownership ☑ Polygamy: registered Muslim marriages cannot be polygamous; historical community-specific exceptions remain ☑ Nature: long-standing common civil-code regime, but not absolutely uniform ⚠ Challenge: historical/customary exceptions mean Goa should be treated as a distinct civil-code model rather than identical to newer UCCs.

NATIONAL / COMPARATIVE IMPACT

- Assam represents a new statutory UCC model; Goa represents a historically inherited civil-code model.
- Assam expressly regulates live-in relationships; Goa's distinctive feature is marital property and compulsory inheritance shares.

- Assam's Bill contains explicit tribal/Sixth Schedule exemptions; Goa retains community-specific historical provisions.
- Goa demonstrates that a common civil-law regime can coexist with India's plural society, but it is not a perfect template for a modern UCC.

Madhya Pradesh UCC VS West Bengal UCC Proposal

Madhya Pradesh UCC	West Bengal UCC Proposal
Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026 — Assembly passed 21 July 2026; Governor assent reported, Presidential assent required before commencement ☑ Marriage: registration compulsory, extending to village level; multiple marriages invalid ☑ Divorce: uniform grounds/procedure; judicial process required ☑ Inheritance: equal inheritance rights for men and women; common succession ☑ Live-in: registration within one month; child and deserted-partner protections ☑ Adoption: common civil framework includes adoption ☑ Exemption: Scheduled Tribes recognised under Articles 342 and 366(25) excluded ⚠ Challenge: transition to enforceable law, Presidential assent, local administrative capacity and customary-law reconciliation.	Draft UCC under review — high-level committee constituted; August 2026 introduction target not achieved as of 29 August ☑ Status: proposal/draft stage; not an enacted UCC ☑ Scope proposed: marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, maintenance and live-in relationships ☑ Committee: panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai ☑ Consultation: draft is under review before legislative introduction ☑ Exemptions: tribal/customary exemptions have been indicated in the proposal ⚠ Challenge: legislative timetable, consultation, federal/constitutional questions, and protection of tribal/customary diversity.

NATIONAL / COMPARATIVE IMPACT

- MP has moved beyond proposal to legislative passage, while West Bengal remains in the drafting/review stage.

- MP emphasises village-level marriage registration and one-month live-in registration; West Bengal's final provisions are not yet settled.
- Both indicate a continuing trend toward common rules on marriage, succession, maintenance and family relations.
- The comparison highlights the difference between an enacted/assented framework and a policy proposal still subject to legislative and constitutional processes.

DETAILED COMPARATIVE MATRIX — UCC / COMMON CIVIL CODE MODELS

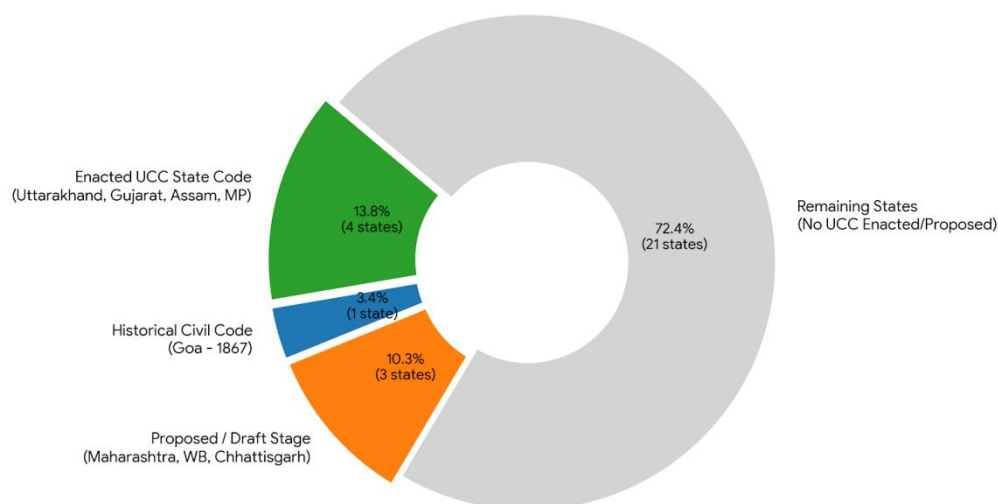
- Uniformity is not absolute: every newer UCC model discussed here contains tribal/customary exclusions, while Goa retains historical community-specific rules.
- Gender equality is a recurring legislative objective, particularly in inheritance/succession and matrimonial rights.
- Compulsory registration is a common regulatory device in the newer state models, including marriage and, in several states, live-in relationships.
- Goa is best treated as a historical civil-code comparator, not as a direct equivalent of the newer UCC statutes/bills.
- West Bengal should be classified as a proposal/draft-stage model, not as an implemented UCC, as of 31 August 2026.
- Key future issues include constitutional assent, privacy under Article 21, religious freedom, tribal/customary autonomy, administrative capacity, federalism and judicial review.

Parameter	Uttarakhand	Gujarat	Assam	Goa	Madhya Pradesh	West Bengal
Legal status	Act 2024; in force 27 Jan 2025	Bill passed 25 Mar 2026; assent/comment pending	Bill passed 27 May 2026; assent/comment pending	Existing civil-code regime	Bill passed 21 Jul 2026; Governor assent reported; Presidential assent required	Draft/proposal; not tabled by 29 Aug 2026
Marriage registration	Compulsory	Compulsory	Mandatory	Civil registration framework	Compulsory; village level	Proposed; final text pending
Divorce	Uniform grounds; maintenance/alimony	Uniform framework; registration	Uniform grounds; registration	Civil-law/property consequences	Uniform grounds; judicial process	Proposed uniform framework
Polygamy / bigamy	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Historical community-	Invalid	Proposed policy direction;

				specific exception		final text pending
Inheritance / succession	Gender-equal; uniform succession	Equal gender rights; uniform succession	Equal gender rights; uniform succession	Compulsory child share; equal among children	Equal gender rights; common succession	Proposed uniform framework
Live-in relationships	Registration; child/deserted-partner protections	Registration; child/partner protections	Mandatory registration; child/property and maintenance protections	Not a central feature in supplied material	Registration within one month; child/maintenance protections	Proposed inclusion
Adoption / guardianship	Covered in UCC framework	Expressly included	Not central in supplied material	Not central in supplied material	Included in Bill	Proposed inclusion
Child marriage	Ban reinforced	Prohibited	Existing prohibition reinforced	Not central in supplied material	Ban reinforced	Proposed; details pending
Tribal / customary exemption	Scheduled Tribes	STs and constitutionally protected customary groups	STs and Sixth Schedule protections	Community-specific historical rules	STs under constitutional recognition	Tribal/customary exemptions indicated
Distinctive feature	Operational state UCC; live-in regulation	Second modern state model; adoption/guardianship focus	Northeast model; explicit tribal/Sixth Schedule protection	Historical Portuguese-derived civil-code model	Village-level registration; judicial divorce	Committee-led draft under review

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during press meeting on 13th September, 2026 has declared that Govt. tries to implement UCC across 21 states by 2029. Maharashtra, West Bengal and

Chhattisgarh till have drafted their civil code.²⁶ Here the following chart is attached based on Status of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Across 29 Indian States



the above data.

10. Post UCC Judicial Interpretations -

Priya Sharma vs. State of Uttarakhand (2022)- The Uttarakhand High Court justify requirement for a UCC to remove the discrimination between several diverse personal laws .

Abdul Khair vs. State of Assam (2022) The Assam High Court has observed the inequality of women in the succession and marriage related issues. The court ensure that a UCC will serves gender equality and social justice.

State of Rajasthan v. Union of India (2019): This case focuses the dispute between tribal customs in Rajasthan which deprives women right of property and constitutional perspectives. The court has observed that UCC will rectify such in equal treatment.

Delhi High Court in the case of Vijay Lakshmi v. Union of India (2021): The Court emphasizes the need of implementing a UCC, as increasing of the multiple religious matrimonial dispute.

Justice Pratibha Singh has said that various application of personal laws creates confusion .She urges to take action for enforcement of the uniform code.²⁷

Supreme court on March 10, 2026 has suggested that Parliament has to bring UCC rather than to make unconstitutional Shariat Act 1937 provision as it provides unequal treatment to Muslim women in case of share of succession.²⁸ According to the report of All India report

²⁶ <https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/uniform-civil-code-to-be-implemented-in-all-21-nda-ruled-states-before-2029-amit-shah-2026-09-13-1054117>

²⁷ <https://www.ijsat.org/papers/2025/1/1617.pdf>

²⁸ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/better-to-await-ucc-than-strike-down-shariat-act-inheritance-provisions-says-sc/article70726103.ece>

Pvt Ltd, A Supreme Court bench has been headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and R Mahadevan, hearing writ petition of inheritance right of muslim women. The CJI has told that the Uniform Civil Code is the “most effective answer” to curb against discrimination and but invalidating the current personal laws may create inconsistency.

Senior Advocate Prashant Bhushan has told that if the 1937 Act has been striking down then the Indian Succession Act equal share will to Muslim women will be applicable.²⁹In the Schedule VII of the Indian Constitution, the three list are included.Entry 5 of the Concurrent List both central state have power to make laws of family related matter.Thus Article 254(1) provides that if there is a conflict between centre and state laws then Union law will prevail.Some states have already enforced their own Uniform Civil Code (UCC) that makes problem with national level code and has commenced legal and political obstacles.

11.Challenges and Future Progress

India is a secular country and there is diverse religious practice. Article 25 of the Indian Constitution provides for right to profess,practice and propagate religion. Already some of the states have enforced civil code and some are not till passed .State level UCCs like that in Uttarakhand proposes for religious /customary practices.

The challenge lies in India that has multi cultural norms which should follow the standard legal framework.

Community opposition,loss of cultural rituals, union -state diverse opinion.Politician may also complicate this issue. They use the issue for increasing of voting percentage.No clear draft to present by simple majority / special majority.Another crucial problem is the mass awareness, multiple public opinion.Minority in our country are afraid of losing their cultural practices. The same-sex couple marriage new rule be introduced.Therefore a strict Uniform Civil Code may set up based on the constitutional values.These reforms promotes justice,equality, instead of disturbing religious practices. The Law Commission's reports (2018- 2023) recommends that the UCC should respect diversity and various cultural practices.There is wrong notion that the UCC wants to implement Hindu law in another community.Muslim practices monogamy , whereas Hindu restricts .In case of grounds of dissolution of marriage are not same. Christian law strictly need evidence in case of adultery.Another problem is that gender inequality. As for example , Mohammedan law permits less share in comparison with man. Whereas the enactment of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 both son and daughter have gets equal share. State-mandated secular codes may violate the fundamental right to freely profess and practice religion.The states which have already enforced their UCC but give exemption to the tribal communities for protection of tribal Culture.Thus it creates conflict and chances of fragmentation as exemption of one section and make mandatory to other communities. Some communities belief that the UCC as a threat to their religious customs.The UCC wants to improve women's rights but some groups may restrict to changes to traditional regulation.The International states UCC in France and Tunisia are elucidated. France has a secular culture but Tunisia has followed on Islamic personal rule .

²⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/allindiareporter/posts/the-supreme-court-batted-for-the-uniform-civil-code-ucc-calling-it-the-most-effe/1345034127666773/>

Therefore , these challenges show that a harmony between secularism and plural culturalism promotes equality without eroding cultural diversity. It promotes uniformity ,ensure social justice but some politician are not agreed with this statement. Some of the political leaders believes that majority religious community can control over minorities plural culture. The debate encourages civil society engagement on religion, gender, and rights. The UCC should protects women's rights and equal status and same rule and regulation for all community in spite of cultural diversity .If our country will follow the international framework and overcome the loopholes and raise mass awareness, Public feedback ,need modification of UCC bill to execute the UCC in national level.³⁰

The 22nd Law Commission Of India the chairmanship of Retd. J. Rituraj Awasthi has taken people response about 7.5 million on UCC during 2023. Till date no uniform civil code across our country is passed .³¹ UCC promises right to equality irrespective of all religion. As per the report of India Today Survey (2024) – UCC has been encouraged by 56% of urban Indians.³² The Supreme Court under Section 6A Citizenship Act (2024) has asserted if cultural and religious practices which creates discrimination of human beings and infringes human rights cannot claim benefits under Article 29 or Article 25.³³

More strict rule for women right, live in partners, child. Ongoing debates, state-level committees, civil society campaigns, and comparative studies with other countries (e.g., France, Turkey, Goa). Urbanization, education, and women's rights movements make citizens more receptive to reforms. Need for judicial training and updated legal infrastructure.

Progress is expected to be gradual and consultative, balancing diversity with equality. The UCC remains a constitutional aspiration and a potential step toward a more just and secular India and make single code for the whole country. As we know India is a part of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966 and CEDAW 1979 , therefore UCC ensure social justice and balancing the constitutional provision Article 14, Article 15 and Article 21 and make single code for the whole country.

This research is subject to some limitations occurs from the several existing statute regulating personal laws in India. The comparative study is based on selected states where UCC is in force. This study is mostly conducted through the available data and e resources, Judicial guidelines ,some reports etc. Some states have announced about draft of the UCC which is not visible in the official website as for example West Bengal. Even of the some Govt. Reports are not accessible both online / offline. Some Experts and public servant are reluctant to express their opinion.

12. Conclusion -

The adoption of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India would represent a landmark achievement in advancing the constitutional principles of equality, liberty, fraternity, and

³¹ <https://mrrjournal.in/uploads/articles/MRR20253912.pdf>

³² <https://lawarticle.in/uniform-civil-code-debate-in-india-2024-25-legal-political-and-social-aspects/>

³³ <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2026/09/19/the-uniform-civil-code-constitutional-mandate/>

justice. To harmonize various personal law ,the UCC want to set up uniformity.Judicial precedents put an effect to activate UCC model in various states.

But the UCC debate till continuing . State-level civil code has already makes balance with Union and state autonomy..The aim of Article 44 is to maintain a harmony with personal laws.But Article is not enforceable. As different states have started to introduces their own regulation,So every citizen should be governed under same rule. A comprehensive UCC is better because it frames integrity and unity all over the country A UCC would only regulate civil matters . It will not violate any religious practices .Therefore a comprehensive UCC is better because it frames integrity and unity all over the country .To be successful UCC in India joint initiatives, center- state discussion, citizen feed back is required. The UCC acts as a agenda of constitutional principles, promoting fair and equatable social justice.It requires a collaborative, consultative, and rights-based approach,ensuring stakeholder participation balancing constitutional ideals with India's pluralistic ethos.