

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)

By

Monojit Gope

Research Scholar

WHAT IS UCC?

- ❑ A uniform set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance.
- ❑ The goal of UCC is to ensure that all citizens are treated equally under the law, regardless of their religion or community.

HISTORY OF UCC

- ❑ The idea of a uniform civil code has been around in India for centuries.
- ❑ The first attempt to codify personal laws was made by the British in the 19th century.
- ❑ The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 was the first major step towards a uniform civil code.
- ❑ The government has been working on a UCC since the 1970s, but it has not yet been implemented.

LAW COMMISSION REPORTS ON UCC

- ❑ The Law Commission of India has been examining the issue of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) since the 1970s. In 1978, the Law Commission published its 125th report, which recommended the formulation of a UCC. The report was based on the following principles:
- ❑ The UCC should be based on the fundamental principles of equality, justice, and social order.
- ❑ The UCC should be applicable to all citizens of India, regardless of their religion or community.
- ❑ The UCC should be flexible enough to accommodate the different cultural and religious traditions of India.

LAW COMMISSION REPORTS ON UCC(CONTINUE...)

- ❑ The Law Commission has published several other reports on UCC since 1978. In 2018, the 21st Law Commission published its 272nd report, which again recommended the formulation of a UCC. The report noted that the current system of personal laws is discriminatory and that a UCC would help to promote equality and social harmony.
- ❑ However, there has been no consensus on the issue of UCC in India. Some people believe that UCC would interfere with religious freedom, while others believe that it is not a priority for the government. The government has not yet taken any concrete steps to implement a UCC.

21ST LAW COMMISSION REPORT

- ❑ The 21st Law Commission of India published its 272nd report on Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in August 2018. The report recommended the formulation of a UCC, but noted that it would be a complex and challenging task. The report highlighted the following challenges to the implementation of UCC:
- ❑ **Religious opposition:** Some religious groups are opposed to UCC because they believe that it would interfere with their religious freedom.
- ❑ **Political opposition:** Some political parties are opposed to UCC because they believe that it is not a priority for the government.
- ❑ **Lack of public awareness:** Many people in India are not aware of the benefits of UCC, which makes it difficult to build support for the idea.

INDIAN CONSTITUTION AND UCC

- ❑ The Indian Constitution does not explicitly mention the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). However, Article 44 of the Constitution states that the State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.
- ❑ Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). DPSPs are not enforceable by the courts, but they are nevertheless important guiding principles for the government.
- ❑ The idea of a UCC has been around in India for centuries. The first attempt to codify personal laws was made by the British in the 19th century. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 was the first major step towards a uniform civil code.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF UCC

- ❑ UCC would ensure equality for all citizens, regardless of their religion or community.
- ❑ It would simplify the legal system and make it more accessible to everyone.
- ❑ It would help to reduce discrimination and promote social harmony.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST UCC

- ❑ Some people believe that UCC would interfere with religious freedom.
- ❑ They argue that each religion has its own set of personal laws, and that these laws should be respected.
- ❑ Others believe that UCC is not a priority for the government, and that there are more important issues to address.

WAYS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

- ❑ The government needs to build public awareness of the benefits of UCC.
- ❑ It needs to work with religious leaders to address their concerns.
- ❑ It needs to make UCC a priority and allocate the necessary resources to its implementation.

WHY IS UCC IMPORTANT?

- ❑ There are currently over 20 different personal laws in India, which can lead to discrimination and inequality.
- ❑ UCC would help to ensure that all citizens have the same rights and responsibilities, regardless of their religion or community.
- ❑ It would also help to simplify the legal system and make it more accessible to everyone.

CHALLENGES TO UCC

- ❑ **Religious opposition:** Some religious groups are opposed to UCC because they believe that it would interfere with their religious freedom.
- ❑ **Political opposition:** Some political parties are opposed to UCC because they believe that it is not a priority for the government.
- ❑ **Lack of public awareness:** Many people in India are not aware of the benefits of UCC, which makes it difficult to build support for the idea.

CONCLUSION

- ❑ UCC is an important goal for India, but it is a challenging one.
- ❑ There are many obstacles to overcome, but the benefits of UCC are worth the effort.
- ❑ We should continue to work towards a uniform civil code that will ensure equality for all citizens of India.

THANK YOU

