Polity & Governance · GS - II

The implementation of a Uniform Civil Code involves balancing constitutional equality with India's social and cultural diversity. Discuss the constitutional significance, potential benefits and challenges of implementing a Uniform Civil Code in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 14, Article 15, Article 21, Article 25, Article 26, Article 44, Article 37, gender justice, secularism, personal laws, cultural diversity, legal uniformity, stakeholder consultation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Article 44 of the Constitution directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens. Uttarakhand's implementation of its UCC has renewed debate on constitutional equality, personal laws and cultural diversity.

Constitutional Significance and Potential Benefits

1. **Gender justice:** Common civil provisions may address discriminatory practices relating to marriage, divorce and inheritance.
2. **Equality before law:** A uniform framework can promote consistency in civil rights irrespective of religious identity.
3. **Legal simplification:** Common rules may reduce complexity arising from multiple personal law systems.

4. **Constitutional vision:** It advances the Directive Principle under Article 44 while engaging with constitutional values of equality and secularism.

Major Challenges

- **Cultural diversity:** India's religious and customary practices require sensitivity towards different communities.
- **Religious freedom:** Implementation must consider Articles 25 and 26, subject to constitutional limitations.
- **Federal and legislative concerns:** Personal laws involve complex questions of legislative competence and implementation.
- **Social acceptance:** Lack of consultation may create mistrust and resistance.
- **Substantive equality:** Uniformity alone does not guarantee gender justice unless the provisions themselves are equitable.

Way Forward

A phased and consultative approach, transparent legislative drafting, protection of constitutional freedoms and gender-sensitive provisions can improve acceptance. Independent review and public awareness are also essential.

Conclusion

A UCC should be evaluated not merely by the uniformity of its provisions but by its ability to secure substantive equality, individual dignity and constitutional fraternity while respecting India's plural character.

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