

GS II

SYLLABUS: INDIAN CONSTITUTION—HISTORICAL UNDERPINNINGS, EVOLUTION, FEATURES.

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

News: "Uttarakhand adopts Uniform Civil Code, launches portal."

Context: Uttarakhand Chief Minister on Monday officially rolled out the Uniform Civil Code(UCC) for all residents of the State, except the Scheduled Tribes and natives who have migrated out of the State. With this, Uttarakhand has become the first Indian State to implement the UCC post-Independence.

Article 44 states that the **State shall promote the Uniform Civil Code throughout its territory**. However, the **DPSP are not justiciable** but are fundamental to governance.

Need for UCC:

- **Uniformity & reduced discord:** enable Uniform Civil principles Eg: separate personal laws with religion.
- **Strengthen Secularism:** by ending discrimination on religious grounds.
- **Empowering Women's Rights:** control over their life & body.
- **Eradication of social injustice:** Eg: social evils, irrational customs (Eg. Law against Manual scavenging).
- **Ease of Administration:** for diverse huge population base like as India is.

Challenges in implementation of UCC:

- **Opposition from religious groups:** different religions different faiths.
- **Violation of Article 25:** interference into religious matters.
- **Art.14 vs Art 25:** Equality before law vs freedom of Religion.
- **Misconception:** Eg. minorities feeling UCC mean they forced to follow Majority religious practices.
- May lead to communal unrest.
- **Unawareness:** Fake news, lack of education, irrational beliefs etc.

Famous cases around UCC:

- **Reformist bill** passed (child marriage, Bigamy outlawed) in 1950 but **Dr. R. Prasad** (first president of India) resisted.
- **Dr. Ambedkar Resigned from cabinet** when Hindu code bill 1951 was stalled by Parliament.
- **Shah Bano Case 1985:** challenges Muslim personal laws.
- **Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India 1995:** SC reiterated need if UCC.
- **Triple Talaq case 2017:** SC held Triple talaq was unconstitutional.

Suggestions:

- **Build consensus** with leaders from all communities.
- **Bring Experts to codify new law:** to draw best for all traditions.
- **Awareness creation:** curb fake news, educate people, Civil societies role etc.
- **GOA UCC:** Shining Example for implementation at National level.
- **High level committee Constitution:** for implementation approaches.
- **Assam, Himachal Pradesh:** Advocate UCC Implementation.

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ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

CLIMATE AND BUDGET

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "The Union Budget as a turning point for climate action."

Context: with a total renewable energy installed capacity of 203.18 GW, far short of the 2030 target of 500 GW, accelerated investment and policy support are imperative.

Initiatives:

- **Phase-II FAME scheme:**
 - In the transport sector, a **subsidy of ₹6,000 crore** has been provided to electric vehicle manufacturers under.
 - Implemented by **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.
- **PM E-DRIVE:**
 - Promotes the **adoption of zero-emission vehicles**, including two-three-four-wheelers, offering purchase subsidies and supporting essential charging infrastructure.
 - Implemented by **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.
- **National Hydrogen Mission:**
 - To promote Green Hydrogen and to become global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.
 - Contribute India to become Atmanirbhar through clean energy production.
 - Creation of Green Hydrogen Hubs.
 - **BEE under 'Ministry of Power' nodal authority** to accreditation of agencies for green hydrogen.
 - Aim to produce 5GW.
 - VOC port in Chennai became **1st hydrogen port**.
 - NHM is implemented by **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana:**
 - **Central Sector Scheme.**
 - Yojana provides households with subsidies to install rooftop solar panels, thereby also addressing energy poverty and access.
 - Cabinet approved the **Rs 75,000 crore** under the scheme to benefit 1 crore families in February 2024.
 - **60% subsidy** for solar systems up to 2kW capacity.
 - Implemented by **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.
- **Production-Linked Incentives(PLI):**
 - **Addresses the critical supply-demand mismatch** where domestic manufacturing of solar panels fulfils only 40% of current requirements.
- **Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon** Emitter by 2030.
- **Transition to Circular Economy:**
 - Adopting a circular economy **can yield an annual profit of ₹40 lakh crore (\$624 billion) for India by 2050** while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 44%.
- **Sovereign Green bond framework:**
 - Sovereign **green bonds are a form of government debt** designed to finance projects that support India's transition to a low carbon economy.
 - **SEBI** issued green bond guidelines in 2017 & Recently, RBI allowed foreign investment in sovereign green bonds.
 - Central govt to issue **Rs 20,000 crore 'Sovereign Green Bonds'** in four tranches in FY 2025.
- **Viability gap funding** for offshore wind energy.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRE-CONTEXT

SOCIAL SECTOR SCHEMES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 7.

News: "Will the FY26 Budget reverse the decline in social sector spending?"

Context: with a total renewable energy installed capacity of 203.18 GW, far short of the 2030 target of 500 GW, accelerated investment and policy support are imperative.

Rural Development

National Social Assistance Programme:

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- **Implemented by Ministry of Rural Development.**
- Under National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) scheme, the **eligible elderly, widows, and disabled persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL)** are provided financial assistance ranging from Rs.200/- to Rs.500/- p.m.
 - **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** A monthly pension of Rs.200/- is given to elderly aged 60-79 years belonging to BPL category.
 - The pension increases to Rs.500/- per month upon attaining the age of 80 years.
 - **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS):** A monthly pension of Rs.300/- is given to BPL persons aged 18-79 years with severe and multiple disabilities (80% disability level).
 - The pension increases to Rs.500/- per month upon attaining the age of 80 years.

MGNREGA:

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- **Implemented by Ministry of Rural Development.**
- **Legal Guarantee of Employment (unskilled) of at least 100 days per financial year to every rural household.**
- **Job card:** Each household receives a unique job card listing all registered adults. A **job card is mandatory** for employment in MGNREGA.
- **Unemployment Allowance:** If work is not provided within 15 days of application.
- **Timely Wage Payment within 15 days** of work completion, any delays in payment attract compensation.
- **Employment is provided based on the demand** for work by wage seekers, not on the availability of projects.
- **Gram Panchayats are the principal authorities** for planning and implementation, enhancing local governance.
- **Focus on Sustainable Asset creation:** Eg. water conservation, drought proofing, rural connectivity etc.
- **Mandatory social audits by Gram-Sabha** ensure transparency and accountability measures.
- **Gender Equity:** **Act mandates that at least one-third** of the beneficiaries should be **women**.
- **Convergence with other schemes:** Eg. PM-Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission etc.
- **Worksite Facilities:** like drinking water, shade, first-aid, and crèche facilities at worksites.
- **Use of Technology:** Digital payments, Geo-Tagging etc.
- Central Govt. has powers to make rules to amend MGNREGA.

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PM Gram Sadak Yojana-II:

- Launched in 2000 as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- **Implemented by State Govts.**
- Spirit and objective of PMGSY was to **provide good all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations.**
- **Not every village gets a road under PMGSY.**
 - The scheme aims to provide road connectivity to **"habitations" with a population above a certain threshold**, typically 500 in plain areas and 250 in hilly or tribal regions.
- **Government had launched PMGSY-III** in 2019 for consolidation of Routes and Major Rural Links **connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.**
- Under New Rules, **minimum 15% of the total length of must use New technologies** such as **Cement stabilization, Lime stabilization, Cold mix, Waste plastics, Fly ash, Cell filled concrete, Panelled cement concrete pavement, etc.**
- For all the **roads of length more than 5km under PMGSY-III, road safety audit is mandatory.**
- **Only Village Roads permitted under PMGSY.** Expressway, National Highways, State Highways, and Major District Roads are not permitted under PMGSY.

DAY-NRLM:

- **Flagship poverty alleviation program** implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development.**
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- **Provides self employment and skilled wage opportunities** to poor.
- **Implemented by District Mission Management Units.**
- **Key features:**
 - **One woman from each rural poor household** would be **brought under SHG network** enabling access to financial services.
 - **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI)** to train rural youth for self employment.
 - **Evolving Fund of Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 given to SHGs** that have been practicing '**Panchasutra**' (Regular meetings; Regular savings; regular inter-lending; Timely repayment; and Up-to-date books of accounts).

PM Awas Yojana- Rural:

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Implemented by Ministry of Rural Development.**
- **Aiming to provide a pucca house, with basic amenities for the poorest segments of society.**
- **Beneficiaries are selected through three-stage validation process:** Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC 2011) and Awaas+ (2018) surveys, Gram Sabha approvals, and geo-tagging.
- **Criteria:**
 - **Annual income criteria's** are in place for different sections like EWS, Middle Income group etc.
 - All eligible households without any shelter.
 - **Households with Kuccha Houses** as per SECC 2011.
 - **Compulsory Inclusion Criteria:** Destitute households or those living on alms, PVTGs, Manual Scavengers, Legally released bonded labourers. .
- **Benefits:**
 - Govt. provides **financial assistance of ₹ 1,20,000 per eligible beneficiaries** to construct their own of house.
 - Convergence with schemes like:

P.T.O



- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**, one LPG connection per house is provided.
- **MGNREGA**, the beneficiary is entitled to employment as unskilled labor for 95 days.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G)**, the beneficiaries get financial assistance of up to ₹ 12,000 for the construction of toilets.

Health

PM-Jan Arogya Yojana (JAY):

- Implemented by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- One of the four components of **Ayushman Bharat**.
- Deals with **Secondary and Tertiary healthcare**.
- World's largest Government funded health assurance scheme.
- Provides health assurance of up to **Rs. 5 Lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary healthcare hospitalisation to approximately **60 crore beneficiaries**.
- Completely cashless and paperless scheme.
- **30 crore Ayushman cards** are created under PM-JAY.

Other facts:

- Centrally **Sponsored** Scheme.
- Implemented by **National Health Authority**.
- Benefits under PM-JAY are portable across the country.
- Beneficiaries are **identified** from **Social Economic Caste Census of 2011** on the **basis of Deprivation, Occupational criteria**.
- There is **no cap on family size, age or gender**.
- **All senior citizens of age 70 years and above, irrespective of income**, are covered.
- It is not mandatory for private hospitals to join PM-JAY. PM-JAY is **voluntary for private hospitals**.

Education

PM-SHRI Schools: PM Schools for Rising India.

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (60:40).
- To develop more than 15,000 schools **to implement NEP Policy** during 2022-2027.
- **Managed by** Both Centre and State Govts.
- NEP 2020 includes **three language formula** and curriculum changes.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (60:40).
- **Ministry of Education** is the nodal agency.
- **Vision of scheme** is to ensure inclusion and equitable quality of education inline with SDG for education.
- Estimated outlay of **approx 3 lakh crore** between 2021 and 2026.
- **Features:**
 - Extends support from pre-school to class 12.
 - It **merged earlier three-schemes** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan, Teacher Education.
 - Envisages one comprehensive strategic plan for development of school education at **district level**.
 - Improving on quality of school education by **focusing on two T's: Teachers and Technology**.
 - Promotes **vocationalisation of education**.
 - Focusses on **digital education like UDISE+, Shagun etc.**

- Strengthens and **upgrades Teacher Education Institutions** Eg. SCERT.
- Supports states to implement **RTE Act 2009**.

PM Poshan Shakthi Norman/ Mid-Day Meal 2021:

- Centrally **Sponsored** Scheme (60:40).
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Education**.
- Implemented by **State Governments**.
- Scheme is component of **ICDS**.
- Aims for providing **one hot cooked meal** in **Govt. & Govt. aided schools** from 2022-26.
- Scheme provides meals to children of **pre-primary to class 8**.
- Scheme **also provides educational support** to improve enrolment, attendance etc.
- It **complements** the **goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan**.

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Thank you!