BLOGS

UCC in Uttarakhand: First State to Implement Uniform Civil Code in India

Ruchika Mohapatra · 27 Jan 2025

Implementation of UCC in Uttarakhand starting today. Read this post to learn about upcoming changes!

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has been a hot topic in India's political and legal discussions. Recently, Uttarakhand took a big step by deciding to implement the UCC. This move aims to make personal laws equal for everyone. It will cover matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption.

What is the UCC?

The UCC or Uniform Civil Code is a single set of laws for all citizens, no matter their religion, caste, or gender. It would replace personal laws based on religious customs and traditions.

Supporters say the UCC promotes equality and matches the principles of India's Constitution. These principles are mentioned in Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

However, some people are worried that the UCC might harm the rights of minority communities. These rights are protected under Article 25 of the Constitution. The challenge is to balance equality and diversity in a country like India.

Read More: Uniform Civil Code in India

Uttarakhand's Initiative

Uttarakhand is the first state to take serious steps toward the UCC. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami formed a committee in May 2022 to draft the UCC. The committee was led by retired Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai. It included legal experts, sociologists, and other members.

After talking to different communities and studying their views, the committee finalized a draft in early 2025. The state government said the UCC will ensure gender justice, equality, and social harmony.

The decision has received mixed reactions. Supporters believe the UCC will stop discrimination and bring unity. Women's rights groups are happy as it could remove unfair rules in some personal laws.

On the other hand, some religious and cultural groups are worried about losing their traditions. The government has promised that all communities were consulted while preparing the draft to make it fair.

Uttarakhand's move could encourage other states to consider the UCC. Legal experts think that if it works in Uttarakhand, it might start a bigger discussion about the UCC across India. Politically, it shows the BJP's effort to fulfill its promise of bringing the UCC, which is part of its election plans.

How Will UCC in Uttarakhand Affect the Laws?

The introduction of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand is expected to have a significant impact on personal laws and the legal framework governing family matters in the state.

The **Uniform Civil Code** aims to replace personal laws based on religious practices with a single set of secular laws applicable to all citizens, irrespective of their religion. It primarily deals with:

- Marriage and divorce
- Inheritance and succession
- Adoption and guardianship
- Maintenance and alimony

Uniform rules for inheritance will replace community-specific provisions like the Hindu Succession Act or Sharia law. For example, daughters will have equal rights in inheritance, regardless of religious affiliation.

Adoption laws would become universal, ensuring a fair and uniform approach rather than religiously guided practices like Hindus being governed by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act.