



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**



**1. Uniform Civil Code**

**2. National Research  
Foundation Bill, 2023**

**3. H-1B Visa**

**4. UN Report on Children  
and Armed Conflict**

**5. Cabinet Approves  
PM-PRANAM**

## Uniform Civil Code

- ➔ After the statement given by **PM Modi** on **UCC**, tribals across the country are worried about their **culture** and the rules that have been followed for years. The tribals have different rules regarding **land, marriage, divorce** and **inheritance** than the mainstream. The tribal society is **very sensitive** about these rules and even the sound of change compels them to react quickly.
- ➔ Recently, the **Law Commission**, while issuing a consultation paper, has told the Central Government that at present, **Uniform Civil Code** is neither necessary nor desirable.
- ➔ The Commission is of the view that **Uniform Civil Code** is not the solution to the problem rather, there is a need to codify all private legal procedures to bring out their **biases** and **stereotypes**.
- ➔ The Uniform Civil Code provides for uniform law for the whole country as well as uniformity in the laws of **marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption** etc. for all religious communities.

- ➔ **Article 44** of the Constitution states that the State shall endeavour 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** mentioned in the Constitution.
- ➔ **Article 44** aims to strengthen the concept of a "**secular democratic republic**" as enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- ➔ The concept of the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** developed in colonial India when the British government submitted its report in the **year 1835**, emphasizing the need to bring about uniformity in the codification of Indian law on various subjects such as **crimes, evidence** and **contracts**. However, the report recommended the exclusion of the **personal laws of Hindus and Muslims** from this uniformity.
- ➔ The increase in the number of laws dealing with personal issues at the end of British rule prompted the government to codify **Hindu law** in the **year 1941** through **B.N. Rao** was forced to constitute the committee.

- ➔ Based on these recommendations, a bill known as the Hindu Succession Act was adopted in the year 1956 to amend and codify the law relating to intestate succession for **Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs**.
- ➔ Currently, most Indian laws follow a **Uniform Civil Code** in civil matters, such as the **Indian Contract Act, 1872**, the **Code of Civil Procedure**, the **Transfer of Property Act, 1882**, the **Partnership Act, 1932**, the **Evidence Act, 1872**, etc.
- ➔ Although states have amended several laws, there is still diversity in the laws relating to **secularism**.
- ➔ The Portuguese government implemented the **Uniform Civil Code** in **Goa**. In the **year 1961**, the Government of Goa was formed with the said **Civil Code**. In such a situation, **Uttarakhand** has become the first state whose cabinet has decided to implement the civil code.



# क्या है

## समान नागरिक संहिता?

एक धर्मनिरपेक्ष कानून है  
जो किसी भी **धर्म या जाति** के सभी  
निजी कानूनों से ऊपर



देश में **हिंदू सिविल लॉ** के  
दायरे में हिंदुओं के अलावा सिख,  
जैन और बौद्ध आते

पाकिस्तान, बांग्लादेश,  
इंडोनेशिया, मलेशिया, सूडान, तुर्की  
और इजिप्त जैसे **कई देशों में लागू**

संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 44** के  
तहत समान नागरिक संहिता को लागू  
करना राज्यों की जिम्मेदारी



गोवा में **साल 1961** से समान  
नागरिक संहिता लागू है



## **National Research Foundation Bill, 2023**

- ➔ Recently, the **Union Cabinet** on **28 June 2023** approved the introduction of the **National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023** in Parliament.
- ➔ The bill will pave the way for the setting up of the **National Research Foundation (NRF)**.
- ➔ The foundation will seed, develop and encourage research and development and promote a culture of research and innovation in **universities, colleges, research institutes** and **research and development laboratories** across the country.
- ➔ The Bill will set up an apex body called the **NRF** to provide high-level strategic direction to scientific research in the country in line with the recommendations of the **National Education Policy**.
- ➔ The total estimated cost of this apex body would be **Rs 50,000 crore** over a period of **five years (2023-28)**.
- ➔ The Department of Science and Technology will be the administrative arm of the **NRF**, which will be governed by a Governing Board consisting of eminent.

- **researchers** and **professionals** from various disciplines.
- The **Prime Minister** will be the **ex-officio Chairman** of this Board and the **Union Minister of Science and Technology** and the **Union Minister of Education** will be the **ex-officio Vice-Chairman**.
- The functioning of the **NRF** will be administered by an **Executive Council** under the chairmanship of the **Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India.
- **NRF** will establish collaboration between industry and academia and government departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for the participation and contribution of various industries and state governments, apart from **scientific** and **related ministries**.
- It will focus on creating a policy framework and regulatory processes that encourage collaboration and increased spending by the industry on **R&D**.
- The Bill will also repeal the Science and **Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, set up by an Act of Parliament in 2008, and subsume it into the **NRF**, which has a wider scope and covers activities other than those of the **SERB**.

## H-1B Visa

- Good news has come out for the Indians living in America, America is ready to **renew** the **H-1B visa**.
- It Will help thousands of Indian professionals living in the **US** to continue with their jobs without the hassle of travelling abroad to **renew** their **work visas**.
- **H-1B visas** are highly sought-after nonimmigrant visas that allow **US** companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations requiring theoretical or technical expertise.
- These visas play an important role in facilitating the recruitment of talent, especially in the technology sector, with many workers coming from countries like India.
- **Until 2004**, some nonimmigrant visas, including **H-1B visas**, could be renewed or stamped within the **US**.
- However, the subsequent changes caused foreign technical workers to leave the country, often returning to their home countries for **H-1B visa** extensions on their passports.



- ➔ This requirement created significant inconveniences, especially considering the long waiting times for visa renewal, which could be as long as **800 days or more than two years**.
- ➔ To address the difficulties faced by Indian professionals, the **US Visa Office** has introduced the **'in-country'** renewable H-1B visa.
- ➔ This initiative eliminates the need for individuals to travel abroad for visa renewal.



## UN Report on Children and Armed Conflict

- India has got relief news from the United Nations. **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has dropped India's name from the 2023 annual report **after 13 years** on the impact of armed conflict on children. He said that after raising concern over this, the Government of India took better measures for the safety of the children.
- India was earlier included in the list in connection with the alleged recruitment and use of boys **by armed groups** in **Jammu & Kashmir** and their detention, killing and maiming **by security forces**.
- This is the **first time since 2010** that India has not been named in the report along with countries like **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Lake Chad Basin, Nigeria, Pakistan** and the **Philippines**.
- Globally in 2022, children continued to be disproportionately affected **by armed conflict**, and the number of children verified to be affected by serious violations **increased compared to 2021**.

- ➔ The report said that India has been **"removed from the report in 2023"** in view of the steps taken by the government to **"better protect children"**.
- ➔ According to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this has been possible due to various policies and institutional changes **since 2019**.
- ➔ The **UN chief** welcomed the legal and administrative framework to protect children and better access to child protection services in **Chhattisgarh, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha** and **Jammu & Kashmir**.
- ➔ After the abrogation of **Article 370**, all statutory service delivery structures like **Child Welfare Committee** and **Juvenile Justice Board** have been set up in Jammu and Kashmir under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015**.
- ➔ The **Government of India** was continuously engaged in efforts to exclude the name of its country from this list.

## Cabinet Approves PM-PRANAM

- ➔ The Center has approved a new scheme **PM-PRANAM** to promote alternative fertilizers and encourage states to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers.
- ➔ It also decided to continue the existing urea subsidy scheme for three years **till March 2025** with an outlay of **₹3.68 lakh crore**.
- ➔ **PM-PRANAM** stands for PM's Program for Restoration, Awareness, Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth.
- ➔ The objective of this scheme is to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers by encouraging the state.
- ➔ Under the scheme, states that adopt alternative fertilizers will be incentivized with subsidies to be saved by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers.
- ➔ Suppose a state is using **10 lakh tonnes** of conventional fertiliser.
- ➔ If it reduces its consumption **by 3 lakh tonnes**, the subsidy savings **will be Rs 3,000 crore**.

- Of that subsidy savings, the Center will give **50% - ₹1,500 crore** - to the state to promote the use of alternative fertilizer and other development works.
- **Objective -**
- To encourage balanced use of fertilizers with biofertilizers and organic fertilizers.
  - To reduce the subsidy burden on chemical fertilizers,
  - The subsidy burden **in 2022-2023** is around **Rs 2.25 lakh crore**.
  - This is **39%** more than last year's figure of **Rs 1.62 lakh crore**.
- There will be no separate budget for the scheme. It will be funded from the existing fertilizer subsidy savings under the schemes run by the Department of Fertilizers.
- **50% of the subsidy savings** will be given to the state that saves the money in the form of a grant.



- ➔ **70% of this grant** can be used to create assets related to the technology adoption of alternative fertilizers and alternative fertilizer production units at the **village, block and district level**.
- ➔ The **remaining 30%** of the grant amount can be used to reward and incentivize **farmers, panchayats and other stakeholders** involved in fertilizer reduction and awareness generation.

