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Uniform civil code



- The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has once again taken strong objection to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), calling it unconstitutional, anti-minority and unacceptable to Muslims.
- AIMPLB has also emphasized that the issue of 'Uniform Civil Code' (UCC) is being raised to divert attention from the real issues and promote the agenda of hatred and discrimination.

What is 'uniform civil code'?

- Uniform Civil Code is a comprehensive set of government laws designed for all citizens in a secular manner, ie regardless of religion.

Related Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 44 of the Constitution states that there should be a 'uniform civil code' (UCC) in the country.

- According to this article, 'The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a 'uniform civil code' throughout the territory of India.' Since the 'Directive Principles of Policy' are only guidelines in nature, they are applicable to the States. Compliance is not mandatory.

A 'uniform civil code' is needed in India for the following reasons:

- A secular republic requires a 'uniform law' for all citizens, rather than differentiated rules based on religious practices.
- **'Gender justice'**: Women's rights are generally limited under religious laws, whether Hindu or Muslim. Many practices prevalent under religious traditions go against the 'guarantees of fundamental rights' enshrined in the Indian Constitution.
- Courts have also, often in their judgments, including the one in the Shah Bano case, said that the government should move towards implementing a 'uniform civil code'.

Doesn't India already have a 'uniform code' in civil matters?

- Under Indian law, a uniform code is followed in most civil matters, such as the Indian Contract Act, the Civil Procedure Code, the Sale of Goods Act, the Transfer of Property Act, the Partnership Act, the Evidence Act, etc.
- However, there have been hundreds of amendments to these laws by the states and therefore, in some cases, there is considerable diversity within these secular civil laws as well.

Why is a 'uniform civil code' (UCC) not desirable at this time?

- Secularism cannot be against the plurality/diversity prevailing in the country.
- Cultural diversity cannot be jeopardized to such an extent that our insistence on 'uniformity' itself becomes a threat to the territorial integrity of the nation.

Constitutional Disruption:

- Article 25 of the Indian Constitution, which seeks to protect the freedom to profess and propagate any religion, conflicts with the concepts of equality enshrined under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution.

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Laser Communications Relay

Demonstration: NASA



Laser Communications Relay

Demonstration – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, the US space agency 'NASA' (NASA) demonstrated its new communication system 'Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)'. This communication system was launched in December 2021.
- It is the agency's first 'laser communications system'.
- LCRD will help the agency to test optical communications in space.

Today Current Affairs

About LCRD:

- The 'Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)' is a demonstration of the 'technology' that will pave the way for future optical communications missions.
- The LCRD instruments have been installed on the Space Test Program Satellite 6: STPSat-6 of the US Department of Defense.
- For this, it will be installed in a 'Geosynchronous Orbit' at an altitude of 35,000 km from the Earth.

Advantages of optical communication systems : The Hindu Analysis

- Optical communication systems are smaller in size and less in weight and require less energy than radio equipment.
- Being 'smaller' means more room for science instruments.
- Less load means less launch expense.
- Less power means less use of spacecraft batteries.
- Missions in the future will be equipped with unparalleled communication capabilities, with 'optical communication' complementing the 'radio' system.

Laser System Vs Radio System : The Hindu Analysis

- Laser communication and radio waves use different wavelengths of light.
- Infrared light is used in laser and its wavelength is shorter as compared to radio waves. This will help in transferring more data in less time.

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