

THE UNIFORM CIVIL CODE: ALIGNING POLICY WITH THE VISION OF A 'VIKSIT BHARAT @2047'

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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT

Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Viksit Bharat, DPSP.

The study examines the relationship between the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047," which represents India's goal of being a developed country by its 100th year of independence. The UCC, which seeks to provide a standardized legal structure for all individuals regardless of their religious affiliation, has been a highly debated matter in Indian politics and culture for a considerable period of time. This study explores the historical backdrop, constitutional significance, and continuing controversies surrounding the UCC. It examines the perspectives of both its proponents, who consider it a secular and inclusive reform, and its detractors, who express worries about its possible effects on religious freedom and cultural identity. The research contends that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) serves not just as a legal reform but also as a crucial measure to promote social cohesion and reduce political influence in Indian society. This aligns with the larger socio-economic and cultural goal of achieving a developed India by 2047. The paper examines significant legal cases and the influence of political organizations such as the BJP and Sangh Parivar, and tries to identify obstacles to the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). It then suggests a way forward that aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of a fair, united, and forward-thinking India, where legal equality fosters progress throughout the nation.

The concept of "Viksit Bharat@2047" is a vision of the Government of India to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of its independence. The vision encompasses various aspects of development, including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance. As India stands at this crucial juncture, poised to take off on its growth trajectory, it is important to realise that tremendous dedication and belief in India's destiny, immense desire, potential, talent and capabilities of the Indians, especially the youth, coupled with steadfast leadership, is necessary to realise this potential. There is enormous work that needs to be undertaken in a mission mode to make India Viksit Bharat by 2047. For this to happen, there is a need to chalk out a bold, ambitious and transformative agenda, and its communication to all stakeholders. The role of the youth, who constitute our largest population group, has a huge role here as they will lead India to Viksit Bharat by 2047. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is defined in our Constitution under Article 44 of Directive Principles of State Policy. It states that it is the duty of the state to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India. In other words, we can say that it means one country one rule. Let us find out more about Uniform Civil Code, and its pros and cons¹. Uniform Civil Code is defined in our Constitution under Article 44 which states that it is the duty of the state to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code

¹ R. K. (2024). AI Integration for Three Language Formula: Advancing Viksit Bharat 2047 Mission. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research*. <https://doi.org/10.36948/ijfmr.2024.v06i01.14276>

throughout the territory of India. Now question arises what is Uniform Civil Code? It is the common set of governing rules for all citizens of India which refers to replace the personal laws (based on religious scriptures and customs). These laws are famous from public law and cover marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption and maintenance. In fact Goa is the only state which has a common family law and 1954 Special Marriage Act allows any citizen to marry outside the realm of any special religious personal law.

The British Government in 1840 on the basis of Lex Loci report had framed Uniform laws for crimes, evidences and contract but personal laws of Hindus and Muslims are left by them somewhere intentionally. On the other hand British India Judiciary provided for application of Hindu, Muslim and English law by British Judges. Also, in those days reformers were raising voice to frame laws related to women against the discrimination done by them basically under religious customs like Sati etc. Constituent Assembly was set up to frame our Constitution in 1946s in Independent India which consists of both types of members: those who wanted to reform the society by adopting Uniform Civil Code like Dr. B. R Ambedkar and other was basically Muslim representatives who perpetuate personal laws. Also, the proponents of Uniform Civil Code were opposed by the minority communities in the Constituent Assembly. As a result only one line is added in the Constitution under Article 44 in Part IV of DPSP (Directive Principles of State Policy)².

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF UCC

The idea of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India dates back to the colonial era, rooted in the desire to create a unified legal framework for the country's diverse population. During British rule, the legal system was bifurcated, with personal laws governing matters like marriage, divorce, and inheritance for different religious communities, while criminal and civil laws were uniformly applied across all citizens. The British, however, chose not to interfere with religious personal laws, fearing it would provoke resistance and unrest among different communities. The origins of the UCC can be traced to the mid-19th century when social reformers and legal experts began advocating for legal uniformity, especially in the area of women's rights. Leaders like Raja Rammohan Roy and later, figures such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, strongly supported the idea of a common code, viewing it as essential for gender justice and equality. The push for a UCC gained momentum during the freedom movement, with many leaders of the Indian National Congress, including Jawaharlal Nehru, recognizing the importance of a uniform legal system for fostering national unity and integrating a diverse populace. This vision was tempered by the complexities of India's social fabric, with its myriad religions and cultural practices. During the drafting of the Indian Constitution, the issue of the UCC became a focal point of debate in the Constituent Assembly. Dr. Ambedkar, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, advocated for a UCC to be included as a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 44), signaling its importance but also acknowledging that its implementation would require careful and gradual social acceptance. The Assembly's debates revealed a deep division between members who supported a UCC as a step toward legal equality and those who feared it would undermine religious freedom and erode cultural identities. This led to the UCC being enshrined in the Directive Principles rather than the Fundamental Rights, reflecting a compromise that prioritized religious autonomy while

² Sahoo, J., & Vadranam, D. S. (2024). Viksit Bharat@2047 transformation of society: Vision and accomplishments. *International Journal of Political Science and Governance*. <https://doi.org/10.33545/26646021.2024.v6.i1b.306>

recognizing the long-term goal of legal uniformity. Post-independence, the UCC has remained a contentious issue, with various governments grappling with the challenge of balancing the need for legal uniformity with the sensitivities of India's diverse religious communities. Landmark cases like the Shah Bano case in 1985 have reignited the debate, making the UCC an enduring topic of legal and political discourse in India³.

RELEVANCE OF UCC IN DPSP

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is enshrined in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution under the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). The inclusion of the UCC in DPSP highlights its importance in the vision of the Constitution's framers, who saw it as a critical element in achieving legal uniformity and social justice in a diverse nation like India. Although not enforceable by any court, the DPSP serves as a guiding principle for the government to ensure that policies and laws are aligned with the broader objectives of justice, equality, and national unity.

- **Constitutional Vision of UCC**

The Directive Principles of State Policy are intended to guide the state in the governance of the country, aiming to establish a welfare state. Article 44 specifically states that "The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India." The inclusion of this article underscores the belief that a common civil code would contribute to national integration by eliminating the disparities and conflicts arising from the application of personal laws based on religion. The framers of the Constitution, including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, envisioned the UCC as a means to promote social justice and gender equality. At the time, personal laws in India were seen as perpetuating inequalities, particularly regarding the rights of women. A uniform code was viewed as a way to standardize legal rights across communities, ensuring that all citizens, regardless of religion, were treated equally before the law.

- **Social Justice and Gender Equality**

One of the key arguments for the relevance of the UCC within the DPSP framework is its potential to advance social justice and gender equality. Personal laws, which vary by religion, often contain provisions that discriminate against women, particularly in matters of marriage, divorce, and inheritance. The UCC aims to eliminate these disparities by providing a common legal framework that ensures equal rights for all citizens. This aligns with the broader DPSP goal of establishing a just society where social, economic, and political inequalities are minimized.

- **National Integration**

Another critical aspect of the UCC's relevance in DPSP is its role in fostering national integration. India's diverse religious and cultural landscape has led to the coexistence of various personal laws,

³ Chandrasekhar Bhoi, Rajendra Behera, Durga Ch Majhi, Krushna sing (2024). Trans-formative Teacher Education in Viksit Bharat (Developed India) @2047: Perspectives and Innovative Approaches. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research*. <https://doi.org/10.36948/ijfmr.2024.v06i01.13189>

which can create divisions and conflicts among communities. A UCC is seen as a tool to unify the nation by providing a single legal framework that applies to all citizens, thereby promoting a sense of common identity and national unity. This objective is consistent with the DPSP's broader aim of fostering a cohesive and inclusive society.

- **Legal and Policy Implications**

While the DPSP is not enforceable in a court of law, it exerts significant influence on legislative and policy decisions. The UCC's inclusion in Article 44 serves as a constitutional reminder to the government to strive toward legal uniformity as part of its long-term policy goals. It provides a framework for the state to gradually work towards a common civil code, taking into account the social and cultural sensitivities of different communities.

DEBATES REGARDING UCC IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

During the Constituent Assembly debates, the proposal for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) sparked significant contention. Supporters, including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, viewed the UCC as essential for national integration, gender equality, and the establishment of a secular legal framework. They argued that a common civil code would ensure that all citizens, regardless of religion, were treated equally under the law, particularly in matters like marriage, divorce, and inheritance. Strong opposition came from members who feared that the UCC would infringe upon religious freedom and erode cultural identities. Minority communities, especially Muslims, were concerned that a UCC might undermine their religious laws and practices. As a compromise, the UCC was placed under the Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 44), making it a non-binding goal for the state to gradually achieve, reflecting the need to balance uniformity with India's religious and cultural diversity.

OVERVIEW AND AIM OF UCC

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) aims to establish a single, unified set of laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption for all citizens of India, irrespective of their religion, caste, or community. The central objective of the UCC is to replace the existing system of personal laws, which are based on religious scriptures and customs, with a secular legal framework that applies equally to everyone. The UCC is rooted in the principles of equality, secularism, and justice. In a diverse and pluralistic society like India, personal laws often vary significantly across different religious communities, leading to legal inequalities, particularly in areas like gender rights. For instance, personal laws in some religions may allow practices that discriminate against women in matters of divorce or inheritance. By proposing a UCC, the aim is to eliminate these disparities and ensure that all citizens are granted the same legal rights and protections. Beyond promoting gender equality, the UCC also seeks to enhance national integration by fostering a sense of unity and common identity among all citizens. In a secular state, the law should not be influenced by religious doctrines but should instead reflect universal principles of justice and fairness. The UCC is seen as a means to modernize and reform out-dated personal laws, aligning them with contemporary human rights standards⁴.

⁴ Garima, D. (2024). Role of Yoga in Viksit Bharat Vision 2047. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Configuration*. <https://doi.org/10.52984/ijomrc4107>

LANDMARK CASES RELATED TO UCC

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has been a focal point in several landmark judicial cases in India, where the courts have highlighted the need for a common legal framework for all citizens irrespective of their religion. These cases underscore the tensions between personal laws and constitutional principles of equality, justice, and secularism. Below are some key cases related to the UCC, with a special focus on the Shah Bano case:

Shah Bano case (1985):-

A 73-year-old woman called Shah Bano was divorced by her husband using triple talaq (saying “I divorce thee” three times) and was denied maintenance. She approached the courts and the District Court and the High Court ruled in her favour. This led to her husband appealing to the Supreme Court saying that he had fulfilled all his obligations under Islamic law.

The Supreme Court ruled in her favour in 1985 under the “maintenance of wives, children and parents” provision (Section 125) of the All India Criminal Code, which applied to all citizens irrespective of religion. Further, It recommended that a uniform civil code be set up.

- Under Muslim personal law, maintenance was to be paid only till the period of iddat. (Three lunar months-roughly 90 days).
- Section 125 of CrPC (criminal procedure code) that applied to all citizens, provided for maintenance of the wife.

Impact – After this historic decision, nationwide discussions, meetings and agitations were held. The then government under pressure passed The Muslim Women’s (Right to protection on divorce) Act (MWA) in 1986, which made Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code inapplicable to Muslim women.

Sarla Mudgal Case:-

In this case, the question was whether a Hindu husband married under the Hindu law, by embracing Islam, can solemnise a second marriage. The court held that the Hindu marriage solemnized under Hindu law can only be dissolved on any of the grounds specified under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955. Conversion to Islam and marrying again, would not by itself dissolve the Hindu marriage under the act and thus, a second marriage solemnized after converting to Islam would be an offence under section 494 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

John Vallamattom Case:-

In this case, a priest from Kerala, John Vallamattom challenged the Constitutional validity of Section 118 of the Indian Succession Act, which is applicable for non-Hindus in India. Mr Vallamattom contended that Section 118 of the act was discriminatory against Christians as it imposes unreasonable restrictions on their donation of property for religious or charitable purposes

by will. The bench struck down the section as unconstitutional. Candidates, who are preparing for UPSC 2024, may check the linked article to know more about the upcoming IAS exam, its pattern, syllabus and more.

Daniel Latifi Case:-

Muslim Women's Act (MWA) was challenged on the grounds that it violated the right to equality under Articles 14 & 15 as well as the right to life under Article 21. The Supreme Court while holding the law as constitutional, harmonised it with section 125 of CrPC and held that the amount received by a wife during iddat period should be large enough to maintain her during iddat as well as provide for her future. Thus under the law of the land, a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to the provision of maintenance for a lifetime or until she is remarried.

DEBATES GOING AROUND UCC AND ITS APPLICATION TODAY

The debate for a uniform civil code has a historical perspective that dates back to the colonial period in India.

Pre-Independence (colonial era)- The Lex Loci Report of October 1840 stressed the importance and necessity of uniformity in the codification of Indian law, relating to crimes, evidence and contract. But, it also recommended that personal laws of Hindus and Muslims should be kept outside such codification. Further, The Queen's 1859 Proclamation promised absolute non-interference in religious matters. So while criminal laws were codified and became common for the whole country, personal laws continue to be governed by separate codes for different communities.

Post-Colonial era (1947-1985)- During the drafting of the constitution, prominent leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr B.R Ambedkar pushed for a uniform civil code. However, they included the UCC in the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP, Article 44) mainly due to opposition from religious fundamentalists and a lack of awareness among the masses during the time.

Some of the reforms of this period were:-

- a. **The Hindu code bill** -The bill was drafted by Dr.B R Ambedkar to reform Hindu laws, which legalized divorce, opposed polygamy, gave rights of inheritance to daughters. Amidst intense opposition of the code, a diluted version was passed via four different laws.
- b. **Succession Act**-The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, originally did not give daughters inheritance rights in ancestral property. They could only ask for a right to sustenance from a joint Hindu family. But this disparity was removed by an amendment to the Act on September 9, 2005.

ARGUMENTS OF THE OPPOSITION

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is often defended as a means of promoting secularism and equality under the law, rather than a fundamentalist agenda. It seeks to standardize personal laws across all religions to ensure equal treatment for all citizens, simplify the legal system, and address social injustices that may arise from diverse personal laws. Supporters argue that the UCC represents modernization and legal reform aligned with constitutional principles, aiming to create a fair and efficient legal system rather than advancing any particular political or religious ideology. The critics often argue that the UCC threatens the right to the freedom of religion, one of the basic rights to which every Indian citizen is entitled. It is quite obvious that there will be a lack of consensus because it is ultimately the difference of beliefs and ideology that affect a person's

morality. This factor can again make the take of UCC implementation difficult. India is a country where people with diverse cultures and religions live together. Therefore, a unified set of laws can be a severe threat to diversity and existing unity.⁵

ARGUMENTS OF SUPPORTERS

Supporters of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) argue that it embodies secular principles and aims to benefit all citizens by transcending personal laws. They assert that the UCC promotes equality by applying the same set of laws to everyone, regardless of religion, thus ensuring fair and consistent legal treatment. It simplifies the legal system, making it more accessible and efficient by eliminating the complexities of diverse personal laws. Additionally, proponents believe the UCC can address disparities and injustices inherent in existing personal laws, especially concerning women's rights and minority protections. By harmonizing legal standards, the UCC aligns with secular values and the constitutional mandate for equal rights, enhancing social justice and legal uniformity for all citizens.

CONCEPT OF VIKSIT BHARAT @ 2047

Viksit Bharat by 2047 envisions India as a developed and prosperous nation by its centenary of independence. This vision goes beyond mere economic growth and political stability, encompassing a broader societal and cultural transformation aimed at achieving comprehensive development. Here's a look at what this concept truly means beyond the realms of economy and politics:

Societal Vision

Social Harmony and Inclusivity

- **Unified Identity:** A key aspect of Viksit Bharat is fostering a sense of unity and national identity that transcends regional, religious, and cultural differences. The vision emphasizes building a cohesive society where diversity is celebrated and inclusivity is the norm.
- **Equitable Development:** Ensuring that the benefits of development reach all sections of society, including marginalized and disadvantaged groups. This includes addressing social inequalities and providing equal opportunities for education, healthcare, and employment.

Empowerment and Participation

- **Empowered Citizens:** The vision includes creating an environment where every citizen is empowered to participate actively in the socio-economic and cultural spheres of the country. This involves enhancing civic engagement and ensuring that individuals have a voice in decision-making processes.
- **Gender Equality:** Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is central to the vision. It involves addressing systemic gender biases and ensuring that women have equal opportunities and rights across all sectors.

⁵ Shivane, D. A., & Jain, D. S. (2024). *Viksit Bharat 2047: Pioneering Transformation and Shaping Global Business Landscape*. <https://doi.org/10.17492/jpi.imdr.032401>

Quality of Life

- **Enhanced Living Standards:** Improving the quality of life through better healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This means not just economic growth but also improvements in the overall well-being of citizens.
- **Sustainable Development:** Incorporating sustainable practices to ensure that development does not come at the cost of environmental degradation. This includes fostering eco-friendly technologies and practices to protect natural resources for future generations.

Cultural Vision

Preservation and Promotion of Heritage

- **Cultural Renaissance:** Reviving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage, including traditional arts, crafts, languages, and practices. The vision involves celebrating and preserving cultural diversity while fostering a sense of national pride.
- **Global Cultural Exchange:** Enhancing cultural diplomacy and global cultural exchanges to showcase India's heritage on the world stage. This involves fostering mutual understanding and respect through cultural interactions and collaborations.

Modernization with Respect for Tradition

- **Balanced Progress:** Integrating modern values and technological advancements with respect for traditional practices and customs. The aim is to achieve a balance where modernization enhances rather than diminishes cultural values.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** Encouraging innovation and creativity in cultural expressions. This includes supporting new forms of art and culture that reflect contemporary experiences while respecting traditional roots.

Cultural Education and Awareness

- **Educational Reforms:** Incorporating cultural education into school and university curricula to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of India's diverse cultural landscape.
- **Community Engagement:** Promoting community-led initiatives that celebrate cultural diversity and heritage. Encouraging local communities to actively engage in preserving and promoting their cultural practices.

THE ROLE OF UCC IN BUILDING VIKSIT BHARAT BY 2047

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) establishes a common legal framework for personal matters, irrespective of religious affiliations. By applying the same set of laws to all citizens, the UCC reinforces the secular nature of the state and ensures fairness and equality before the law. This approach addresses the current disparities and inconsistencies among various personal laws, promoting a more equitable legal environment where all individuals are granted equal rights and protections, irrespective of their religion or community. One of the key roles of the UCC is to bridge the gaps created by differing personal laws across communities. By providing a unified

legal framework, the UCC reduces legal and social divisions based on religion or community, fostering national unity. Its inclusive nature ensures that legal reforms benefit all sections of society, addressing issues like discriminatory practices in marriage and inheritance laws. This contributes to a more cohesive society by mitigating tensions that arise from legal disparities and promoting social harmony.

The UCC helps in depoliticizing personal matters that are often exploited for political gain. By standardizing personal laws, the UCC reduces the potential for these issues to be used for sectarian or political purposes. This neutral legal framework fosters a stable and unbiased legal environment, focusing on justice and fairness rather than religious or political considerations. By avoiding the politicization of personal laws, the UCC supports a more stable and impartial legal system. The UCC addresses gender-based inequalities present in many existing personal laws. It seeks to provide equal rights in areas such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance, which often disproportionately affect women. By ensuring that legal rights are not determined by gender or religion, the UCC promotes gender equality and empowerment. This legal standardization helps protect vulnerable groups, particularly women, from discriminatory practices, contributing to a more equitable society where everyone has the same opportunities and legal protections. As part of its contribution to Viksit Bharat, the UCC represents a move towards modernizing outdated personal laws. This modernization aligns legal practices with contemporary values and human rights standards, facilitating societal progress and development. By integrating modern legal principles with traditional practices, the UCC supports the broader goal of achieving progress while respecting cultural heritage. This balance helps in fostering a more progressive and inclusive nation. The UCC plays a significant role in building a unified national identity by applying the same legal standards across all communities. This helps foster a sense of belonging and commonality among citizens, reinforcing the vision of a cohesive and integrated India. Additionally, a common legal code supports democratic values by ensuring equal access to justice and legal recourse for all citizens, thereby strengthening the democratic fabric of the nation and aligning with the broader vision of a developed and equitable society.

THE ROLE OF BJP IN FRAMING UCC WITHIN ITS BROADER POLITICAL NARRATIVE

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have played a pivotal role in framing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) within their broader political narrative, emphasizing it as a necessary step towards ensuring justice and equality for all citizens, regardless of religion. For the BJP and its ideological affiliates, the UCC is not merely a legal reform but a crucial element in their vision of a unified and cohesive nation. They argue that a common legal framework is essential to eliminate the disparities created by religious-based personal laws, thereby promoting national integration and social harmony. The Sangh Parivar, with its emphasis on Hindutva, views the UCC as a means to establish a uniform standard of justice that transcends religious boundaries, aligning with their broader objective of cultural nationalism. By advocating for the UCC, the BJP positions itself as a proponent of secularism, redefined as equal treatment under the law, challenging the status quo of religious personal laws that they argue perpetuate division and inequality. This narrative seeks to resonate with a wide audience, projecting the UCC as a progressive reform that upholds the principles of justice, equality, and national unity.⁶

⁶ Kumar, R., & Kumar Singh, D. R. (2023). The Role of Science and Technology in Vikshit Bharat: Building a New Paradigm for India's Growth. JOURNAL GLOBAL VALUES. <https://doi.org/10.31995/jgv.2023.v14is3.027>

CHALLENGES TO its IMPLEMENTATION: TRIBALS, WOMEN, OTHER RELIGIONS

The implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) poses significant challenges for tribal communities, as it may be seen as a threat to their cultural autonomy. Tribal groups often have deeply rooted customary laws and practices that are integral to their cultural identity and traditional governance structures. The imposition of a uniform legal code could undermine these customs, leading to resistance from tribes who view the UCC as an infringement on their way of life. The challenge lies in respecting the unique cultural heritage of tribal communities while promoting a common legal framework that aligns with the principles of equality and justice.

For women, the UCC presents both opportunities and challenges. While the code aims to promote gender equality by standardizing laws across all communities, there is concern that it could inadvertently disadvantage women, particularly in patriarchal societies where certain customary laws provide them with specific protections or benefits. The UCC must carefully balance the need for gender justice with the preservation of beneficial traditional practices. There is a risk that if not implemented thoughtfully, the UCC could be perceived as disregarding the complex ways in which different communities address gender roles, potentially leading to unintended negative consequences for women.

The implementation of the UCC also faces resistance from various religious groups who may perceive it as an infringement on their religious autonomy. Personal laws related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption are often seen as integral to religious identity, and any attempt to impose a uniform code may be viewed as an effort to homogenize diverse cultural and religious practices. This fear of homogenization, coupled with concerns about the potential dilution of religious freedoms, makes the UCC a politically sensitive issue. Religious communities may oppose the UCC, seeing it as a threat to their rights and a challenge to their long-standing traditions.⁷

WAY FORWARD

The way forward in implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) should focus on creating a balanced approach that aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. To achieve this, the UCC must be positioned as a progressive reform that promotes equality, justice, and national unity, while respecting India's diverse cultural and religious heritage.

1. Inclusive Dialogue and Consultation

A successful implementation of the UCC requires an inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders, including religious leaders, tribal communities, women's groups, and legal experts. This process should involve transparent consultations to address concerns and build consensus around the UCC as a means of achieving greater social harmony. Engaging with communities directly affected by the UCC will help in crafting a legal framework that is sensitive to cultural nuances while upholding the principles of equality and justice.

⁷ Kumar, R., & Kumar Singh, D. R. (2023). The Role of Science and Technology in Vikshit Bharat: Building a New Paradigm for India's Growth. JOURNAL GLOBAL VALUES. <https://doi.org/10.31995/jgv.2023.v14is3.027>

2. Phased Implementation

To minimize resistance and ensure a smooth transition, the UCC could be implemented in phases. Initially, the focus could be on areas of common agreement, such as promoting gender justice and protecting the rights of women and children. Gradual reforms that are widely accepted can pave the way for broader adoption of the UCC over time, allowing communities to adapt to the changes incrementally.

3. Public Awareness and Education

Public awareness campaigns are essential to demystify the UCC and highlight its benefits for all citizens. Educating the public on how the UCC can promote equality, protect individual rights, and contribute to a more unified nation is crucial. By fostering a broader understanding of the UCC as a secular and inclusive law, these campaigns can reduce misconceptions and build public support for the reform.

4. Legal Safeguards and Flexibility

To address concerns from various communities, the UCC should include legal safeguards that protect cultural and religious practices that do not conflict with fundamental rights. Additionally, the code could incorporate flexibility in certain areas, allowing for specific exemptions or alternative dispute resolution mechanisms that respect the traditions of different groups while ensuring that justice is served.

5. Strengthening Institutions

The successful implementation of the UCC will also depend on the strength of India's legal and judicial institutions. Ensuring that these institutions are equipped to handle the challenges of enforcing a uniform legal framework is critical. This includes training for judges and legal professionals, as well as reforms to streamline the legal process and make it more accessible to all citizens.

6. Aligning with Broader Reforms

The UCC should be part of a broader strategy for legal and social reform that supports the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat. This strategy could include reforms in education, healthcare, and economic development, aimed at creating an inclusive society where all citizens can thrive. By aligning the UCC with these broader goals, it can become a cornerstone of India's journey toward becoming a developed and equitable nation by 2047.

CONCLUSION

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) represents a transformative step towards realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. As India aspires to become a developed and cohesive nation, the UCC stands at the forefront of efforts to promote equality, justice, and social harmony. By providing a uniform legal framework that applies equally to all citizens, irrespective of religion, the UCC addresses the inconsistencies and inequalities inherent in the current system of personal laws. Despite the challenges and opposition it faces, particularly from tribal communities, women, and various religious groups, the UCC offers a pathway to a more inclusive and equitable society. Its

successful implementation hinges on inclusive dialogue, phased reforms, public education, and legal flexibility. Engaging with all stakeholders and addressing their concerns will be crucial in crafting a code that respects cultural diversity while upholding universal principles of justice and equality. Ultimately, the UCC aligns with the broader goals of national integration, gender justice, and modernization. By fostering a unified legal system and reducing societal divisions, it supports the broader objective of Viksit Bharat, contributing to a more harmonious and developed India by 2047.