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### THE PROBLEM OF REGULATING LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

- The implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand marks a significant shift in the governance of civil life, particularly concerning live-in relationships.
- While some aspects of this regulation aim to safeguard the rights of individuals involved in such relationships, others raise concerns regarding personal autonomy, privacy, and state interference.

#### **The Primary Motivation Behind Regulating Live-in Relationships: Protection of Vulnerable Parties**

- One of the primary motivations behind regulating live-in relationships is the protection of vulnerable individuals, particularly women and children.
- The UCC grants legitimacy to children born from live-in relationships, extending them legal recognition that was previously available only to those born from void or voidable marriages.
- Furthermore, the law provides a legal remedy of maintenance in cases where a partner is deserted.
- These provisions reflect a well-intentioned attempt to ensure financial security for individuals who may otherwise find themselves in precarious situations.

#### **Drawbacks of Uttarakhand UCC**

- However, the law falls short in offering support in cases where a live-in relationship is terminated rather than abandoned.
- Since termination merely requires a statement to the registrar, a partner may be left without recourse for financial support.
- This gap in the legal framework exposes a fundamental contradiction: while the law seeks to protect individuals in live-in relationships, it simultaneously upholds their informal nature, failing to provide necessary safeguards post-separation.

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- Additionally, the exclusion of same-sex relationships from these provisions further highlights the law's limitations.
- By recognising only opposite-sex live-in relationships, the UCC leaves LGBTQ+ individuals without legal protection, reinforcing social and legal discrimination against non-heteronormative relationships.

### Conclusion

- While Uttarakhand's UCC aims to provide legal safeguards for individuals in live-in relationships, its provisions raise significant concerns regarding autonomy, privacy, and state interference.
- The mandatory registration requirement, parental notification clauses, and criminalisation of non-compliance undermine the principles of sexual autonomy and personal freedom.
- Instead of ensuring protection, the law risks exposing individuals to greater vulnerability by legitimising societal control over private relationships.
- Moving forward, a more nuanced legal framework is needed, one that balances protection with personal liberties, recognising the diverse nature of modern relationships without excessive state intrusion.

### CENTRE VS DELHI GOVERNMENT: THE CONSTITUTIONAL TUSSLE

#### Constitutional Status of Delhi:

- Delhi's governance is defined by Article 239AA of the Indian Constitution, introduced through the Sixty-Ninth Constitutional Amendment Act (1991). This article provides Delhi with:
  - A Legislative Assembly with the power to make laws on subjects from the State List and Concurrent List, except police, public order, and land.
  - An elected Chief Minister (CM) and a Council of Ministers responsible for day-to-day administration.

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- A **Lieutenant Governor (L-G)**, appointed by the **President of India**, who acts as the Centre's representative in Delhi.
- This division of powers has frequently led to conflicts over jurisdiction, policy decisions, and administrative control.

### Supreme Court Verdicts on Delhi's Powers

- The legal battle escalated to the **Supreme Court**, leading to multiple **landmark rulings**:
- **2016 Delhi High Court Ruling**
  - The Delhi HC ruled in favor of the Centre, stating that the L-G had overriding powers over Delhi.
  - This decision effectively curtailed the Delhi Government's autonomy.
- **2018 Supreme Court Judgment**
  - A five-judge Constitution Bench ruled in favour of the Delhi Government. It declared that:
  - The L-G must act on the "aid and advice" of the elected government except in matters of public order, land, and police.
- **2023 Supreme Court Verdict**
  - A second Constitution Bench reaffirmed the 2018 ruling, clarifying that:
  - The Delhi Government has control over administrative services, except matters related to law enforcement and land.
  - The Centre's argument that no UT has control over services was rejected.
- Despite these Supreme Court victories, the Central Government introduced amendments to limit Delhi's powers.
- The legal and political struggle continues, with implications for the broader question of federalism in India.

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### INDIA AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH

#### Motivations Behind India's Engagement with the Global South

- **The China Factor**
  - Several factors contribute to India's growing enthusiasm in global governance, particularly in championing the interests of developing nations.
  - A frequently cited explanation is India's strategic competition with **China**. Given China's dominant presence in Africa and Asia through infrastructure investments and financial assistance, **India is keen to present an alternative development model**.
  - Unlike China's state-led, loan-driven approach, **India emphasises equal partnerships and sustainable growth**.
- **India's Aspiration to Become a Self-Reliant Power**
  - However, **India's aspirations are not solely based on geopolitical rivalry**.
  - It seeks to establish itself as a **self-reliant power advocating for fairer economic structures**.
  - **Many developing nations face economic struggles due to debt burdens and policy conditionalities imposed by international financial institutions**.
  - **India positions itself as a leader that understands these concerns, given its own development trajectory**.

#### Steps India Must Take to Strengthen Its Global Role

- **Redefining Development Cooperation**
  - India **must reinforce its commitment to a bottom-up development approach** rather than replicating traditional donor-recipient models.
  - While its recently launched 'Global Development Compact' aims to support growth in the Global South, it is largely shaped by Indian experiences.
- **A Human-Centric Development Model**

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- India's promotion of sustainable development through initiatives like Mission LiFE ('Lifestyle for Environment') is commendable, but it must expand its definition of human-centric progress.
- Beyond sustainability, **India should focus on building human capital through skill development, entrepreneurship, and capacity-building programs.**
- **Programs such as Skill India and initiatives for integrating women into the workforce can be tailored to other developing nations seeking to strengthen their domestic industries.**
- **Institutional Strengthening and Global Governance Reform**
  - India has taken notable steps toward reforming international governance structures. **Its advocacy for the African Union's inclusion in the G-20 in 2023 exemplifies its commitment** to amplifying the voices of the Global South.
  - However, **to emerge as a credible global development partner, India must also invest in building its own institutional capacities.**
  - Relying solely on external partnerships, such as those with the United Nations or European countries, may be a short-term necessity, but in the long run, **India needs robust domestic mechanisms to lead global initiatives independently.**

### The Way Forward

- As India aspires to become a stronger global development player, **it must establish norms, standards and systems to work with partner countries.**
- Initially, **it is beneficial to use existing institutional channels of partners such as the United Nations or Germany and France** that are more experienced in development cooperation.
- **Trilateral partnerships and increased engagement with new partners need to be seen as a learning by doing process, where India imbibes its experiences to scale up India-led global initiatives.**

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### EXERCISE CYCLONE 2025



- It is a **joint military exercise** held between **India and Egypt** army.
- This is the **third edition** of Cyclone exercise. The first edition of the exercise was conducted in 2023 (In India) and second edition (In Egypt) was in 2024.

**Goal:** The goal of the exercise is to improve coordination between the two armies. Training will include real-world scenarios and tactical drills.

**Motto of Exercise Cyclone 2025:** “Together we train, together we excel”

The exercise will involve the special forces of both countries. The Indian Army and the Egyptian Army would train together in desert conditions. The focus will be on counter-terrorism, high-intensity combat, and survival techniques.

Military cooperation between India and Egypt has strengthened in recent years. Both countries have emphasised the need to strengthen security efforts. The exercise will allow both forces to operate together in simulated combat situations.

### PM-AJAY SCHEME



- The **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana** (PM- AJAY) is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- It is aimed at **reducing poverty among the SC communities** through various initiatives like the generation of additional employment and improving socio-economic indicators in SC dominated villages.



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- It is a merged scheme of three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely **Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)**, **Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)**, and **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)**.

### Objectives:

- To **increase the income of the target population** by way of various income generating schemes, skill development and infrastructure development.
- To **reduce the poverty among** the target population and bring them above the poverty lines.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- The Scheduled Castes persons **living below the poverty** lines are eligible for getting benefits under this scheme.
- In case of Infrastructure Development, the villages **having 50% or more SC** population are eligible for grants under the Scheme.
- It is being **implemented since 2021-22** as three components, which are as under:
  - Development of SC dominated villages** into an 'Adarsh Gram' component
  - Grants-in-aid for District/State-level Projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs' component
  - Construction of Hostels in Higher Educational Institutions'** component

### WHAT IS QUIPU?



- It is a recently discovered **superstructure** in which **galaxies group together in clusters** and clusters of clusters (superclusters).
- It contains nearly **70 galactic superclusters**.
- It is the **largest known structure in the universe in terms of length**.

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- Quipu stretches an astonishing **3 billion light-years** across and contains an estimated 200 quadrillion solar masses.
- It is **over 13,000 times** the length of the Milky Way.
- It is also hundreds of **thousands of times more massive than a single galaxy**.
- Inspired by the Incan counting system of knotted cords, the structure mirrors its namesake with a **long central filament and multiple branching filaments**.
- Despite its vast size, Quipu will not last forever. Scientists believe it **will eventually break into smaller, collapsing units**.
  - They describe it as a "**transient configuration**" that will change over time.
- Studying Quipu may help refine cosmological models. It could offer new insights into galaxy evolution and large-scale cosmic dynamics.

### AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL



- The **Sixth Schedule** of the Indian constitution provides a list of ten tribal areas in **Assam(3), Meghalaya (3), Tripura (1) and Mizoram (3)**.
- Each of these tribal areas constitutes an autonomous district. Each autonomous district has an **Autonomous District Council (ADC)**.

#### Membership of Autonomous District Council:

- They have up to **30 members** with a term of **five years**.
- Out of 30, **four are nominated by the governor** and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of **adult franchise**.

**Tenure of Autonomous District Council:** Five years from the date of their constitution.

#### Functions:



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- They make **laws on land**, management of forests, except reserved forests, appointment of traditional chiefs and headmen,
- They make rules regulating the inheritance of **property**, marriage, divorce, the constitution of village courts,
- They can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
- They can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But such regulations require the assent of the governor.

**Revenue source:** The main Revenue Sources of ADCs, as specified in the Sixth Schedule, were:

- taxes on professions, trades, callings and employment;
- taxes on animals, vehicles and boats;
- taxes on the entry of goods into a market and sale therein, and tolls on passenger and goods carried on ferries; and
- taxes for the maintenance of school, dispensaries or roads.