

## MARINE HEAT WAVES

### GS 1 GEOGRAPHY

**SOURCE:** [Down to Earth](#)

A marine heatwave is a period of abnormally high ocean temperatures relative to the average seasonal temperature in a particular marine region.

**EG: The 2015-2016 marine heatwave in the Pacific Ocean, known as the "Blob", was one of the most severe marine heatwaves on record.**

### CAUSES OF MARINE HEATWAVES

**Warming oceans:** This warming is causing the oceans to store more heat, which can lead to more severe marine heatwaves.

**Weather patterns:** Marine heatwaves can also be caused by weather patterns, such as El Nino Events.

**Ocean currents:** Ocean currents can also play a role in marine heatwaves. For example, the Gulf Stream is a warm ocean current that flows from the Gulf of Mexico to the North Atlantic Ocean. This current can help to transport warm water to the North Atlantic, which can increase the risk of marine heatwaves in that region.

**Coastal upwelling:** Coastal upwelling is a process where cold, nutrient-rich water from the ocean depths is brought to the surface but it can also lead to marine heatwaves if the upwelling is weak or if the water that is brought to the surface is already warm.

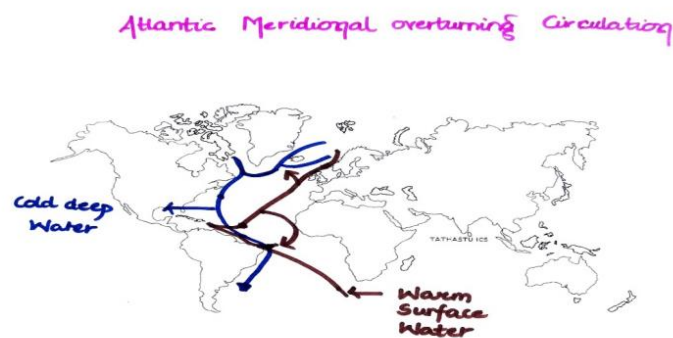
### EFFECTS OF MARINE HEATWAVES ON ENVIRONMENT

**Coral bleaching:** Coral bleaching occurs when the water temperature is too warm for corals to survive. This leaves the corals white and vulnerable to death.

#### PRELIMS SPECIFIC:

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a significant oceanic current system that moves tropical warm surface waters northwards in the Atlantic and transports cold deep waters, which are part of the thermohaline circulation, southwards.



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**Fish kills:** Marine heatwaves can cause fish kills by making it difficult for fish to find food or by making them more susceptible to diseases.

**Harmful algal blooms:** Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are blooms of algae that produce toxins that can harm humans, animals, and the environment.

**Mass mortality of benthic communities:** Marine heatwaves can cause mass mortality of benthic communities by making it difficult for these organisms to find food or by making them more susceptible to diseases.

#### IMPACTS OF MARINE HEATWAVES ON HUMANS

**Reduced food security:** Marine heatwaves can damage marine ecosystems, which can lead to a decline in fish stocks. This can have a negative impact on food security.

**Increased risk of harmful algal blooms:** Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are blooms of algae that produce toxins that can harm humans, animals, and the environment.

**Damage to coastal infrastructure:** Marine heatwaves can cause coastal erosion and flooding, which can damage coastal infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and buildings.

**Disruption of tourism:** Marine heatwaves can disrupt tourism, as people may be less likely to visit coastal areas if the water is too warm or if there are harmful algal blooms.

#### CONCLUSION


Monitoring and understanding marine heatwaves are crucial for predicting their occurrence, assessing their impacts on marine ecosystems, and informing management and conservation strategies. As climate change continues to progress, addressing the causes and consequences of marine heatwaves becomes even more important for the health of our oceans and the planet as a whole.

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## UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

### GS 2 POLITY

SOURCE: [TH](#)

#### CONTEXT: THE POLITICS OF UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Uniform Civil Code is the ongoing point of debate within Indian mandate **to replace personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community** in India with a common set of rules governing every citizen.

A uniform civil code will mean a set of **common personal laws for all citizens**.

EG: There are different personal laws for Hindus and Muslims. Personal law covers property, marriage and divorce, inheritance and succession

#### NEED OF UNIFORM CIVIL CODE:

1. **It Promotes Real Secularism:** In India, the current situation reflects selective secularism, where secular principles are applied selectively in different areas. To establish a uniform civil code, all citizens, regardless of their religion (Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, etc.), would be bound by the same laws.
2. **All Indians should be Treated Same :** Ensuring equal treatment for all Indians requires uniformity in laws concerning marriage, inheritance, family, and land, as existing religious-based personal laws lead to disparities."
3. **More rights to women:** A uniform civil code will grant women more rights, challenging patriarchal traditions and promoting fairness and equality.

#### PRELIMS SPECIFIC:

##### Indian constitution on uniform civil code:

- **Article 44** of the Constitution calls upon the State to endeavour towards securing a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. (DPSP).
- **Article 14:** Right to Equality enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution ensures that the state shall not deny any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws. Implementing a UCC would eliminate discriminatory laws based on religion and promote equal treatment for all citizens in personal matters.
- **Article 15:** Prohibition of Discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth (Article 15) further reinforces the need for a UCC to eliminate discriminatory practices in personal laws.
- **Article 25:** Freedom of Religion protects an individual's right to practice and propagate their religion. A UCC aims to maintain this freedom while bringing uniformity in civil laws that may be influenced by religious practice.

#### MERITS OF UCC

- If a Common Civil Code is enacted and enforced.
- It will help in accelerating national integration.

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- Overlapping provisions of law could be avoided.
- Litigation due to personal law world decrease.
- Sense of oneness and the national spirit would be aroused.
- The country would emerge with new force and power to face any odds finally defeating the communal and the diversionist forces.

#### CHALLENGES OF UNIFORM CIVIL CODE:

- India's **diversity poses** challenges for implementing a Uniform Civil Code as cultural differences vary widely from state to state and community to community.
- Enforcing a uniform code may **infringe on the right to freedom of religion**, guaranteed by the constitution.
- Some communities resist adopting secular laws that differ from their personal laws, leading to **concerns about imposing one group's traditions on others**.
- General laws already **address certain human rights and social obligations**, such as prohibiting child marriage, applying to all personal laws.
- Different religions may claim **the right to govern their issues under personal law**, but a court decree should be the governing authority

#### SC CASES ON SECULARISM

**Shah Bano case (1985):** Shah Bano was a Muslim woman seeking maintenance from her husband after their divorce. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of granting her maintenance **under Section 125** of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which applies to all Indian citizens irrespective of their religion. This decision sparked a debate on the need for a UCC and led to the passage of The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, which exempted Muslim women from Section 125 .

**Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995):** In this case, the Supreme Court addressed the issue of bigamy and the need for a UCC. The court highlighted the inconsistencies in personal laws regarding marriage and emphasized the importance of having a UCC to promote gender justice and ensure equality.

**John Vallamattom v. Union of India (2003):** This case revolved around the right to property and inheritance in the context of a UCC. The Supreme Court held that the state could enact a UCC to ensure uniform inheritance laws for all citizens.

**Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2000):** This case dealt with the issue of the validity of the Second Marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act. The court observed that a UCC could help in resolving discrepancies and maintaining consistency in marriage laws

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## GS 2 POLITY

SOURCE: [DTE](#)

**CONTEXT: CAG finds Chhattisgarh mining department underutilised District Mineral Fund Trusts, delayed projects.**

CAG is the supreme audit institution of India, established under Article 148 of the Constitution of India. The CAG is responsible for auditing the accounts of the central and state governments, as well as of public sector undertakings.

### KEY FUNCTIONS OF CAG:



### ABOUT CAG:

- **APPOINTMENT:** By President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **TENURE:** 6 years or 65 years of age which is earlier.
- **Salary:** His salary and other service conditions cannot be varied to his disadvantage after the appointment.
- **Removal:** CAG can be removed by the President only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution which is the manner same as the removal of a Supreme Court Judge.
- He shall not be eligible for further office either under the Government of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office.
- He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- He is the guardian of the public purse.

### LIMITATIONS OF CAG

**Post-facto audit:** The CAG can only audit expenditure after it has been incurred. This means that the CAG cannot prevent financial irregularities from happening, but can only highlight them after they have occurred.

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**Lack of enforcement powers:** The CAG's reports are only advisory in nature. The government is not legally bound to implement the recommendations of the CAG.

**Secret service expenditure:** The CAG cannot audit secret service expenditure. This is because the

Government considers this information to be confidential.

**Delay in supply of documents:** This can delay the audit process and make it more difficult for the CAG to do its job effectively.

**Political interference:** The CAG is an independent institution, but it is still possible for the government to interfere with its work.

#### WAY FORWARD

- 1. Capacity Building:** Invest in continuous training and capacity building for CAG staff to keep them updated with the latest auditing techniques, technologies, and best practices.
- 2. Timely Reports:** Expedite the process of conducting audits and publishing reports. Timely submission of audit reports allows for prompt action and corrective measures by the executive and legislative bodies.
- 3. Strengthening Legislative Oversight:** Encourage parliamentary committees to play an active role in scrutinizing CAG reports and holding government agencies accountable for implementation of audit recommendations.
- 4. Audit of Regulatory Bodies:** Strengthen the audit of regulatory bodies to assess their effectiveness and independence in carrying out their mandates.

#### PRELIMS SPECIFIC :

#### CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR CAG:

**Appointment and Removal (Article 148):** The President of India appoints the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

**Duties and Powers (Article 149):** The primary duty of the CAG is to audit the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, as well as the Consolidated Fund of each state and union territory.

**Reports to Parliament (Article 151):** The CAG submits audit reports to the President or Governor, who shall cause them to be laid before the respective legislatures.

**Article 279:** The calculation of "net proceeds" is ascertained and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, whose certificate is final.

**Third Schedule:** Section IV of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India prescribes the form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at the time of assumption of office.

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