

Constitution *of* India

Indian Constitutional History Workshop

Exploring the Uniform Civil Code

1. Identify the date(s) on which the Constituent Assembly debated the Uniform Civil Code. Take note of 3 of the most important days among these.
2. Which members of the Constituent Assembly took part in the debate around the Uniform Civil Code? Write the names of any two members, along with their social backgrounds.
3. Was there any mention of Uniform Civil Code before the formal constitution-making process in India? What about 'marriage'?
4. A) Why did Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar invoke the example of Europe to justify India adopting the Uniform Civil Code? Do you think this invocation was appropriate and useful?

B) Read his entire speech and note down important points in his arguments. Assess the quality of debate up to this point and note down your impressions.
5. During the debate, Husain Imam argued that adopting a Uniform Civil Code for a vast country like India was inappropriate. How did B.R. Ambedkar respond to Hussain Imam? Read Ambedkar's full speech. Was the Assembly convinced by his arguments—how can we discern this? What's your take on Imam's and Ambedkar's speeches?