



# Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022

## Why In News?

- On December 22, 2022, Uttarakhand's Additional Secretary Legislative Mahesh Kaushiba told that the Governor has approved the **Uttarakhand Religion Freedom Amendment Bill 2022**. After getting the seal of the Raj Bhavan, the Act has now become effective in the state.

## Key Points

- Confirming the Governor's assent to the bill, Additional Secretary Mahesh Kaushiba said that now the amendment law has come into effect in the state. This anti-conversion law is stricter than Uttar Pradesh.
- The Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was approved at a meeting of the Uttarakhand Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on November 16, 2022.
- Under the amendment law, now there will be a punishment of up to 10 years for forcible or luring or fraudulent conversion in the state. In the new law, a fine of 50 thousand rupees has been provided.
- In case of mass conversion, the punishment will now be three to ten years, earlier the maximum punishment was three years. Also, the victims will be able to get a reimbursement of five lakh rupees through the court.
- The law of conversion in the state will now come under the category of cognizable and non-bailable offence. Earlier it was a non-cognizable offence.

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