



Reopening of Madrasa in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On 3rd April 2025, the **Uttarakhand High Court** ordered the government to **unseal a madrasa**, which officials had sealed for **allegedly operating “illegally,”** provided the institution does not run any school in the building without State government recognition.

Key Points

- **Government Action on Madrasas:**
 - The State government **shut down over 136 madrasas for allegedly operating without affiliation** and failing to meet madrasa board norms.
 - The state Chief Minister also ordered an inquiry into the funding of these institutions.
- **High Court's Interim Relief:**
 - The court granted **interim relief to Madarsa Enamul Uloom in Dehradun**, allowing its reopening.
 - The madrasa owners challenged the sealing, arguing that they operated a religious school under a registered society and that the State had sealed the premises without legal authority.
 - The High Court also asked the State government to clarify the legal provisions and procedures followed in sealing the madrasa's property.
- **Court's Observations on Due Process:**
 - The High Court noted that the **madrasa was sealed without a show-cause notice**, and the petitioners were denied a hearing.
 - The court ruled that the property should be unsealed until the next hearing, provided the **petitioners submit an undertaking that they will not operate a madrasa or school** without State government recognition.

Madrasas

- Madrasa is an **Arabic word** for an **educational institution**.
- Initially, **mosques** served as educational institutions in early Islam, but by the 10th century, madrasas evolved into distinct entities for both religious and secular learning in the Islamic world.
- The earliest madrasas were found in **Khorasan and Transoxania (modern eastern and northern Iran, central Asia, and Afghanistan)**, with larger institutions providing housing for students, especially those from poor backgrounds.
- Recognized madrasas are **under state boards**; unrecognized ones follow curricula from major seminaries like **Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama and Darul Uloom Deoband**.

