

# NDA needs more than 400 seats in LS elections to implement UCC in country: Himanta

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**BEGUSARAI (BIHAR):** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said the NDA needs to win more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country and to construct a grand temple at the Krishna Janmasthan in Mathura.



Addressing an election rally in favour of senior BJP leader and Union Minister Giriraj Singh in Begusarai, Sarma slammed the Congress and its allies for "raising question mark" on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He said, "... The NDA under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to win 400 plus seats to implement the UCC in the country, for the construction a grand temple at Krishna Janmasthan in Mathura and also to ensure PoK, which is a part of India, returns to India." The UCC means having a common law for all citizens

of the country that is not based on religion. Personal laws and laws related to inheritance, adoption and succession are likely to be covered by a common code. Hitting out at the Congress and its allies, Sarma said, "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD supremo, Lalu Prasad, did not attend Pran Pratishtha of the Ram Lalla at Ayodhya. Let me make it very clear that neither Rahul nor Lalu will ever be able to visit Ram temple in Ayodhya..." The Assam CM accused the Congress of giving religion-based reservation. "They (INDIA alliance leaders) are indulging in pol-

itics of appeasement and raise issues that support Pakistan. Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar recently said that India should not raise the PoK issue and respect Pakistan as it possesses an atom bomb. Even if Pakistan has a nuclear bomb, I am confident that it must have passed its expiry date. "Our government at the Centre has made it clear that PoK belongs to India and no force can snatch it. We have to give a third term to Modi Ji to ensure that PoK returns to India. Since the NDA government has removed article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, it will

ensure PoK returns to India in the coming days," said Sarma. The NDA needs to win more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections to save the quota granted to the OBCs, SCs and STs, he said. "The Congress gave reservation to Muslims by reducing the quota of OBCs/STs and SCs in Karnataka and other states and it now plans to replicate this across the country. Mamata Banerjee... Congress and RJD are the biggest enemy of OBCs... Religion-based reservation should be given to Muslims in Pakistan, not in India. The NDA will not allow this at any cost," he said.

# Uttarakhand High court asks govt to find suitable site for its relocation out of Nainital

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**NAINITAL:** The Uttarakhand High Court has asked the state government to find within a month a suitable place to shift its premises out of Nainital saying its relocation is in larger public interest.



"Considering the larger public interest, it is necessary to shift the High Court from Nainital," a division bench of the high court comprising Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Kumar Thapliyal said on Friday. The bench asked the Chief Secretary to select a suitable place for the High Court within a month. It also directed the Registrar General to create a portal to take suggestions from advocates and the general public on the issue. The next hearing in the matter has been scheduled for June 25. On the state government's earlier proposal for shifting the High Court to Gaulapar in Haldwani, the high court

observed that the land earmarked for the purpose had 75 per cent forest cover and construction in the area would lead to deforestation. The high court also made a few recommendations for the kind of land required for its relocation and facilities, including proper accommodation for judges, judicial officers, staff and court rooms. The selected area must have adequate space for facilities such as chambers, canteen, parking and conference hall to accommodate at least 7,000 lawyers, the bench said. The area should be near

a place which has good medical facilities and good connectivity, it added. The Uttarakhand High Court had directed the state last week to explore the possibility of moving a bench of it to Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Rishikesh which is now closed but has a sprawling campus spread over hundreds of acres on which former IDPL employees have their residences. The high court's decision to shift its premises has drawn a lot of resistance by the bar association.

# GDC Udhampur celebrates Mother's Day with fervour



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**UDHAMPUR:** To celebrate Mother's Day, an event was organized at GDC, Udhampur, by the Women Development/Empowerment Cell in collaboration with the Department of English, to celebrate the unconditional sacrifices of the mothers and to show that without women, the very structure of the society cannot stand. Under the guidance of

Principal, a poster-making competition was organized on the related theme. Around 12 students participated in the competition and gave a free vent to their expressions by depicting multifaceted contribution and sacrifices a mother make for her children and family. The Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Gupta addressed

the students and expressed his views regarding the role of women as a mother and the sacrifices they make on each stage of their lives. The event was concluded by a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Anita Sharma (Convener, Women Development Cell). The members of the Cell and other staff members were also present and graced the event.

# GCW Gandhi Nagar organises "SAFARNAMA" for hosteliers.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The vibrant energy of student's creativity and talent was on full display as the hosteliers of GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Semester 4th bid farewell to the outgoing hostel residents on 10th of May 2024.

The event was organized by the students of semester 4th under the supervision of Hostel Warden, Anita Kotwal. Hostel farewell commenced with the formal lamp lighting by the Convener of Hostel Committee, Dr Rupinder kour and other senior faculty members accompanied with her viz., Prof. Renu Anand, Dr. Minakshi Bandral, Prof Vijendar Kumar, Prof Anupama Sharma, Prof Anuradha, Dr. Himani Arora and Prof Pooja Charak. The event was organized by the diligent effort of hostel committee; the event saw enthusiastic participation from students across various departments, making it truly a memorable affair. The Hostel



Farewell segment will serve as a platform for the fourth-semester students to express their gratitude & bid farewell to the outgoing residents. It was an emotional yet joyous occasion, filled with heartfelt speeches, nostalgic reminiscences, & the expression of gratitude. Students had planned a mesmerizing cultural programme, featuring captivating dance performances, melodious singing and the thrilling crowning of Miss Hostelier, 2024. The competition for miss farewell was the highlight of the evening, with contestants undergoing a rigorous selection process spanning three stages. Shruti was awarded the Miss Hostelier

award, while Siya Mahajan and Mamta Devi secured the first and second runner up positions respectively. The jury members for the said selection process were Prof. Vijendar Kumar, Dr. Himani Arora and Dr. Anuradha. Prof. Rupinder Kour, the esteemed convener of the hostel committee emphasized the importance of hostel life in shaping the holistic development of students. Adding to the prestige of the event, Principal of the college, Prof. S.P. Saraswat commended the hard work and dedication of the hostel warden, convener and hostel committee in arranging the memorable farewell for the hostel students.

# GDC Mahanpur observes National Technology Day

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**MAHANPUR:** Eco Club of GDC Mahanpur in collaboration with the Department of EVS celebrated National Technology day on the theme "From Schools to Startups: Igniting Young Minds to Innovate. It was organized by Dr. Nishu (HOD) Department of

ple regarding technologies they can use for purification of water, and also how they can reduce solid waste by using technologies at source. Students and staff of GDC Mahanpur clean various stepwells of the villages. 25 students were participated in this event and the faculty members



(EVS) under the supervision and able guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College. Students and staff visited various villages of Mahanpur and aware peo-

present on the occasion were Dr. Mohinder, Dr. Sudesh, Nisha, Dr. J S Soodan, Dr. Suman, Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, Dr. Hilal, Dr. Ajay and Dr. Anil.

# SC grants bail to ex-cop Pradeep Sharma in 2006 fake encounter case

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court has granted bail to former Mumbai Police officer Pradeep Sharma, awarded life sentence in the 2006 fake encounter killing case of gangster Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakkhan Bhaiya..



A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Prashant Kumar Mishra noted the submission of the lawyer for the Maharashtra government that the state had no objection to the court granting bail to Sharma. Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Sidharth Luthra appeared for Sharma, while senior advocate R Basant represented the complainant and opposed the former officer's bail application. The top court had earlier on April 8 said he need not surrender till further orders to undergo the life sentence awarded to him in the case. While admitting Sharma's appeal against the March 19 Bombay High Court verdict, the bench had said, "It is a case

of reversal of acquittal by the high court, where the appeal is filed by the appellant. The statutory appeal is admitted for hearing. Issue notice on bail plea. The high court has directed him for surrender in three weeks. Till the next date of hearing, he need not surrender." Sharma, who along with the likes of Daya Nayak, Vijay Salaskar and Ravindra Angre was part of a dreaded squad of Mumbai police that took on the city's underworld in the 1990s and 2000s and killed scores of alleged criminals, has challenged the Bombay High Court order which sentenced him to life imprisonment in the fake

encounter with "credible, cogent and legally admissible evidence". It, however, quashed the 2013 judgement passed by a sessions court acquitting Sharma due to the lack of evidence and termed it "perverse and unsustainable". The high court had convicted Sharma of all charges, including criminal conspiracy, murder, kidnapping and wrongful confinement, and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Sharma is also an accused in the killing of businessman Mansukh Hire to whom the SUV used in the Antilia bomb scare case was traced. Hire had, however, reported to police that the vehicle had been stolen days before the incident. His body was found floating in a creek off a Mumbai suburb a few days after the incident. On November 11, 2006, a police team picked up Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakkhan Bhaiya from Vashi in Navi Mumbai along with his friend Anil Bheda, and killed him in a staged encounter near

Versova in western Mumbai the same evening. Gupta's associate Anil Bheda was released from custody in December 2006. However, in July 2011, a few days before he was scheduled to depose in court, Bheda was also allegedly abducted and killed. The state CID is probing the case. Taking note of Bheda's case, the high court had said till date, the CID has not taken any steps to conclude the investigation and trace the perpetrators. Twenty-two individuals, including 13 policemen, were initially charged in the Ramnarayan Gupta fake encounter killing case. Following a trial, the sessions court in 2013 found 21 of the accused guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment. Two of the convicted individuals died while in custody. Those convicted filed appeals in the high court, while Gupta's brother Ramprasad appealed against Sharma's acquittal.

# IndiGo announces direct tri-weekly flights between Bengaluru and Deoghar from June 1



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**KOLKATA:** Low-cost carrier IndiGo has announced direct flights between Jharkhand's Deoghar and Bengaluru three times a week from June 1, a company statement said. The direct flights will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. On these days, flight number 6E 6435 will take off from Bengaluru at 10.05 am and reach Deoghar at 12.25 pm. The return flight, 6E 6437, will leave Deoghar at 12.55 pm and

land in Bengaluru at 3.25 pm, it said. The new route will enhance connectivity from the southern part of India to the famous religious hubs in Jharkhand, the airline said in a statement on Friday. With these new flights, Bengaluru will be airline's fifth destination to be directly connected with Deoghar, after Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi, and Delhi, it said. "We are pleased to announce direct flights between Bengaluru and

Deoghar," the statement quoted the head of global sales at IndiGo, Vinay Malhotra, as saying. This will not only provide customers with access to the unexplored beauty of Jharkhand's holy city, but will also offer enhanced accessibility, increased flight options, and improved connectivity for students and employment-seekers travelling across the region, Malhotra said. Deoghar is a city soaked in religious and cultural significance and is home to the famous Baidyanath temple, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, which attracts millions of devotees every year, it said. The city is also known for its natural beauty, with hills, waterfalls, and forests surrounding it. The flight services will also provide residents of Jharkhand access to various tourist places in the IT hub of Bengaluru, it added.

# No reason for Muslims to be insecure in India since their population growing, says Anurag Thakur

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**HAMIRPUR (HP):** Citing a new report on India's demographic transition, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur wondered how Muslims can feel insecure in the country, especially when their population has reportedly increased by 45 per cent and they have been equal recipients of government welfare programmes. A working paper on population trends released recently by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister said the population of majority Hindus declined by 7.82 per cent between 1950 and 2015 while that of Muslims increased by 43.15 per cent, suggesting that there is a conducive environment to foster diversity. It, however, did not give absolute numbers. In an interview to PTI late Friday, senior BJP leader Thakur said the minorities are clearly thriving and need not worry. He also rubbished the opposition's charge that the BJP would change the Constitution. "On the contrary, the BJP

will ensure that reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs is not diluted or altered by anyone." The four-time MP from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, who is defending his seat against Congress' Satpal Raizada, accused the party of seeking to take away the reservation meant for SCs/STs/OBCs and provide it to Muslims. He also alleged that the Congress is aiming to grab the wealth of people and provide the same to Muslims to further its appeasement and vote bank politics. The Congress has denied these claims, also made by other BJP leaders, as lies and distortion of their manifesto. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also said that he will never allow reservation based on religion by taking away quotas meant for SCs, STs and OBCs, Thakur said. Asked if there was a need for policy change on population control or a legislation on the issue in the wake of changing demography, Thakur said the new government will discuss the issue and then take a call after discussion as pop-

ulation figures have just come out in public domain. He said the figures show that the population of Muslims in India has increased by almost 45-47 per cent over 65 years. "What do these figures indicate. On one side the population of Hindus declined by 7.8 per cent and on the other hand the population of Muslims increased by 45-47 per cent. One has to ponder over the reasons behind this. In Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, the population of Hindus was 23 per cent in 1947, now they are only 2 per cent left. And still, some people in India say Muslims are insecure. Their population has increased by 45 per cent, still they say they are insecure," he said. "How are they insecure? We never said vote for us out of compulsions, we have not indulged in any vote bank politics. We freed Muslim women of the scourge of triple talaq, we have also provided Muslims women with pukka houses, toilets and free (cooking gas) cylinders, besides free medical treatment even if they have eight chil-

dren. They have also benefited from our schemes," the minister said. On the Constitution, he told PTI, "There will be no change of Constitution." He said the BJP has been in power for the last 10 years while wielding absolute majority in Parliament. Still, it has not made any Constitutional amendment, Thakur said. "It is the Congress which has amended the Constitution all the time. Besides, the Congress insulted Babasaheb Ambedkar, who gave us this Constitution, and even worked to send him out of politics. The Congress also did not give him honour," he alleged. Instead, he said, it was Narendra Modi who made 'paanch teerth' at Nagpur, Mhow, Mumbai, Delhi and England in honour of Babasaheb Ambedkar and began marking Constitution Day on November 26, besides declaring a holiday on Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14. "I want to tell this country and the youth that it was Indira Gandhi who murdered

democracy and if anyone has tried to crush the Constitution, it is Arvind Kejriwal," Thakur said. "Even the creators of the Constitution would have never thought that a chief minister and deputy chief minister would be in jail for corruption and still are reluctant to resign from their posts," Thakur added. Thakur also reeled out government statistics to support his view that the BJP government has consistently worked during the last 10 years for the poor, especially the backward class and castes. Out of four crore houses made under the PM Awas Yojna by PM Modi, as many as 58 per cent houses were made for SC/STs, he said. He also cited the Rs 6,000 annual dole given to farmers, of which a majority of the beneficiaries are SC/ST and OBC category people. Thakur noted that four crore houses, 12 crore toilets, 13 crore water connections and 10 crore free cooking gas cylinders were provided to people, as well as free

medical treatment to 60 crore people and free ration to 80 crore people. "These people (opposition) are spreading fear, misconceptions and rumours that SC/ST reservation will go, but the truth is that wherever the Congress governments came, in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, they took away SC/ST quota and gave to Muslims and are creating fear among SC/STs," Thakur said. The senior BJP MP said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wants a survey that will lead to wealth redistribution. "This is appeasement politics which the Congress started, not us," he said. "We have done 'Sabka Vikas' and did not do Hindu-Muslim, and we will carry on doing work like this in future. But when these people say such things for votes that they will give to Muslims, then we raise questions that they try to insult Hindus and talk of crushing Sanatan and talk of giving resources to Muslims," Thakur said.

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