



**KERALA GUV ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN TO SEND CONTENTIOUS BILLS PASSED BY ASSEMBLY TO PRÉZ**

**RAJYA SABHA ELECTION FOR 10 SEATS ON JULY 24; JAISHANKAR, O'BRIEN AMONG THOSE RETIRING | 9**



**Community**

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New Delhi: PM Modi on Tuesday dismissed the objections to enactment of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), saying it was a ploy by those who treated Muslims as a vote bank.

Talking to BJP workers in Bhopal, he recalled that abolition of triple talaq or instant oral divorce was also opposed on the same ground despite the fact that Muslim countries, including Pakistan, had banned the controversial practice decades ago.

The loud public articulation of UCC, which has been opposed by members of the Muslim community and the "secular political class", coincides with signs that after scrapping the special status of Jammu & Kashmir and construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the government could be verging towards fulfilling another of its "core" pledges.

Parliament's monsoon session is set to begin around the third week of July and if the government indeed brings the UCC legislation, it will ensure that the sittings turn out to be a stormy affair.

**Times News Network**

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi's strong pitch for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) inflamed the opposition on Tuesday, with Congress saying it's a diversionary tactic to confound people from issues like unemployment and Manipur strife while AIMIM head Asaduddin Owaisi wondered if the Hindu Undivided Family would be abolished.

Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal said the PM can say anything, but "he has to answer the real questions of this country — unemployment, price rise and the Manipur issue". "Why has the PM not uttered a single word (on Manipur)? He wants to run away from the real issues, that is why they are only trying to divert the issues," he said.

Modi said in Bhopal that the opposition is using the UCC to mislead and provoke the minority community. Hitting back, Owaisi said: "Will he strip the country of its pluralism and diversity



Muslim brides at a mass marriage. The Law Commission recently reorganised the issue of UCC by seeking comments from the public

in the name of UCC? When he speaks of UCC, he is speaking of Hindu Civil Code. I challenge him. Can he abolish the Hindu Undivided Family? Let him go and tell the Sikhs in Punjab about UCC and see the reaction there."

Owaisi criticised Modi for his remarks on triple talaq and Pasmanda Muslims, and asked: "He has cited Pakistan to justify the ban on triple talaq. Why is Modi getting inspiration from Pakistani law? And why does he have so much love for Pakistan?" Bihar minister and JD (U) politician Vijay Kumar

Chaudhary alleged that by touching upon the UCC, Modi was aiming at communal polarisation. "The way the PM spoke about opposition unity shows his worry and bears testimony to the supreme success of our opposition unity drive," he said. RJD's Manoj Jha said the PM should not make such issues an instrument of "dog-whistle politics".

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said: "The people of this country are well aware which party tried to push CAA and NRC, and which party was involved in instigating riots." (With agency inputs)

## Modi's UCC remark uncalled for: Jamiat

Times News Network

New Delhi: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind have raised objections to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on Uniform Civil Code, saying his assertion on a common law for an entire nation was "not in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution that provides protection and freedom for all to practice their religion and customary laws".

JUH, the influential body of Muslim clerics, responded to the PM's public platform on the UCC on a public platform as "uncalled for" as it comes at a time when the Law Commission has sought views of stakeholders and the general public on the issue before it begins a review of the matter.

Senior member and secretary of JUH, Niaz Ahmed Faro-

qui alleged that "the PM's statements on UCC are a direct attempt to influence the Law Commission and build a public narrative on the subject. Being the PM of the country, this does not suit his stature and before going public on UCC like this he should have consulted the Law Commission on the appropriateness of raising the issue at this juncture".

Interestingly, on Tuesday evening the All India Muslim Personal Law Board held a meeting to firm up its stand on UCC and draft a reply that would be sent to the Law Commission. Its spokesperson SQR Ilyas said, "The PM's remarks on UCC to emphasise on one nation, one law is not in keeping with spirit of the Constitution which through exemptions in various provisions creates room for diversity and federalism to make its presence felt."

**JUST LIKE THAT** AJIT NINAN



Victoria

## NMC: NExT to be held in 2 phases from May 2024

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New Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC), for the first time, on Tuesday shared a tentative timeline for conducting the National Exit Test (NExT), a common qualifying exam for medical graduates. Officials said NExT will be held in India in two phases. The first phase, likely to be held in May next year, will be based on Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs).

The second phase, to be conducted in November, after the completion of internship, will be a comprehensive practical/clinical examination. It will evaluate competencies in

### MOCK TEST ON JULY 28

> NExT to replace all postgraduate medical entrance tests, including NEET-PG

> NExT step 1 will be held twice a year - May and November - at national level, and will replace final-year MBBS exam too

> Students must clear NExT 1 to pursue internship. NExT 1 score will be valid for 3 years

for postgraduate admissions > NExT step 2 will be practical exam after completion of internship at univ level. It will be a pass-or-fail exam and no scores will be given

A mock test will be conducted on July 28, 2023; registration will start from June 28 (today)



clinical diagnosis, patient examination and clinical decision-making, practical and communication skills necessary for practice of the modern system of medicine. NExT will act as a licentiate exam to practice modern

medicine and for merit-based admission to postgraduate courses and a screening exam for foreign medical graduates who want to practice in India.

Dr S C Sharma, chairman of NMC, said a mock test is planned on July 28 to test the system. Registration for the mock test, which will be conducted by AIIMS Delhi, will start on June 28 (Wednesday), Dr Sharma said, while addressing an online meet called to address the concerns of final year medical students and faculties of medical colleges regarding the common qualifying exam.

"Only final year students pursuing MBBS courses are eligible for such mock tests,"

he added. The aim of the test, the NMC chairman explained to students, is to familiarise the prospective candidates with Computer-Based Test (CBT), software interface and process flow in the exam centre. "The sample questions in the mock test will only exemplify the pattern and format of the NExT-Step 1 examination. Still, they may not represent the complete NExT-Step 1 examination or syllabus coverage," he added.

Until now, all MBBS graduates had to clear a final exam which included both theory and practical. It was conducted by colleges/universities. NExT will be a centralised exam.

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