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Dehradun

Uttarakhand leads the way: UCC gets to a start



By ARUN PRATAP SINGH

DEHRADUN, 27 Jan: Uttarakhand made history on Monday by becoming the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami unveiled the notification and launched the UCC portal, ucc.uk.gov.in. He was also the first to register his marriage on the portal. The UCC would be applicable to all except the Scheduled Tribes which are covered under the special provisions under the Constitution. In a ceremony at the auditorium in the CM's official residence, Dhami formally announced the implementation of the UCC, launched the portal, and released the UCC Rules booklet. The Chief Secretary handed over the first marriage registration certificate to the Chief Minister. Later, the Chief Minister also handed over certificates to the first five applicants under the UCC.

He revealed that the Expert

Committee that had been constituted to prepare the UCC law had consulted 2.35 lakh people before drafting the UCC and stated that its implementation was a tribute to the framers of the Indian Constitution, including late BR Ambedkar.

Announcing the implementation of the UCC with effect from Monday, Dhami described it as a historic day for both Uttarakhand and the nation. He emphasised that the UCC aims to establish equality in society by ensuring constitutional and civil rights for all citizens. He also highlighted that women across all religions will now enjoy equal rights.

Dhami credited the people of Dev Bhoomi for bringing forth the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Expressing his happiness and emotions, he announced that the UCC is being implemented immediately, ensuring equal rights for all citizens, including women of all religions. He extended his

gratitude to the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, Justice Pramod Kohli, the committee, members of the Legislative Assembly, the IT department, and the Police Home department for their cooperation and support in fulfilling this promise.

The Chief Minister recalled that the implementation of the UCC was the first taken by the government nearly three years ago. The eagerly awaited day has finally come. He stressed that the UCC aims to eliminate legal differences based on caste, religion, and gender, while ensuring women's empowerment and security. Practices like Halala and Triple Talaq will be effectively stopped, and registration in live-in relationships will provide security to both parties. Drawing a parallel to the mighty Ganga that originates in Uttarakhand but its benefits flow across the country so too UCC which is first implemented in this state on January 27 will go down in history

as Uniform Civil Code Day to be celebrated in Uttarakhand.

Addressing concerns about discrimination, Dhami clarified that tribes have been kept separate based on Constitutional provisions. He assured that the UCC is not against any religion or community and is not intended to target anyone. Instead, it is a path to harmony through equality.

Key Provisions and Benefits: Equality and Empowerment: The UCC eliminates legal discrimination based on caste, religion, and gender. Practices like halala, triple talaq, and khat have been banned, ensuring women's safety and empowerment.

Property Rights: Equal property rights have been granted to daughters, while the deceased's property will now be equally distributed among the spouse, children, and parents.

Marriage Rules: The minimum marriage age has been set at 21 for boys and 18 for girls, and second marriages are

prohibited while the spouse is alive.

Live-in Relationships: Registration for live-in relationships has been mandated. The registrar will confidentially notify parents or guardians about the couple, and children born out of live-in relationships will have equal rights.

The UCC also exempts Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution to preserve their customs and traditions.

Online Registration and Fee Waiver

To simplify the process, online registration has been introduced. For the first six months, no fee will be charged for registering marriages, divorces, or annulments that occurred before the implementation of the UCC.

Dhami credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their guidance in implementing the UCC. He also thanked the people of Uttarakhand for their support.

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