

INDIA'S CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP BILL?

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill seeks to provide Indian nationality to six communities — Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains and Buddhists fleeing persecution from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants in the select categories eligible for citizenship.

WHAT DOES GOVERNMENT SAY?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made it clear at the meeting of the BJP parliamentary party on Tuesday that the contentious legislation was the top priority of the government, equating its significance with the decision to turn Article 370 into a dead letter. "Minorities in the neighbouring theocratic countries have been subjected to continuous persecutions, which forced them to seek asylum in India. Giving citizenship to six minorities will be yet another push from the Modi government to the spirit of 'sarva dharma sambhav', " Singh said.

WHAT DOES OPPOSITION SAY?

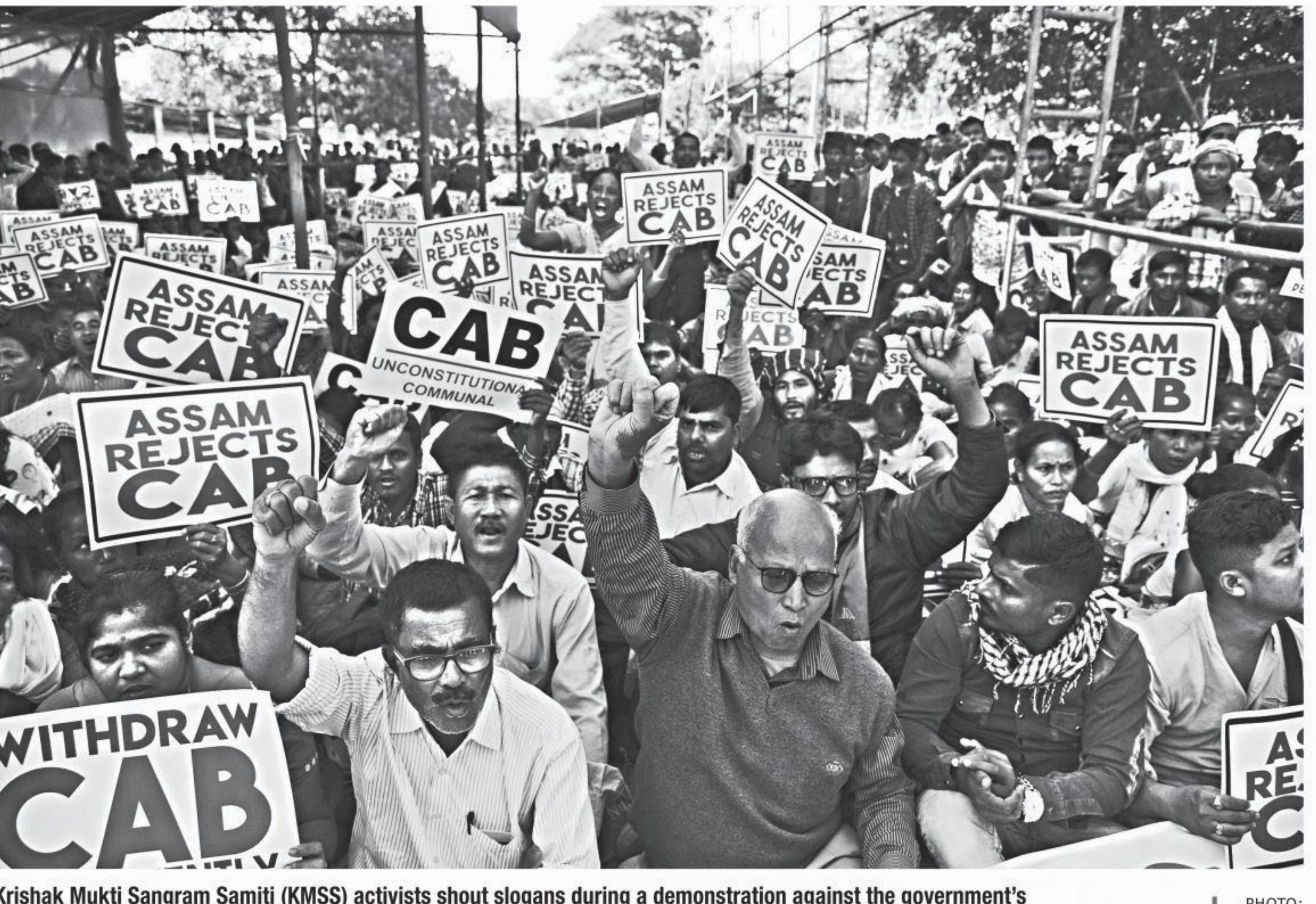
The legislation has been attacked by opposition parties, minority outfits and others for leaving out Muslims and also on the grounds that it is at odds with the Constitution, which does not differentiate between citizens on the basis of their faith.

PARTIES OPPOSING/SUPPORTING BILL

Congress, Trinamool, DMK, Samajwadi Party, RJD and Left, and even regional parties like BJD have expressed reservations. BJP's Assam ally AGP seemed to have warmed up to the idea of CAB after the government assured changes to the Bill. The government is likely to get the support of regional allies — Akali Dal and JD(U). AIADMK, meanwhile, is likely to take a cautious approach before clarifying its stand on the Bill.

WILL GOVT BE ABLE TO GET BILL PASSED?

While BJP is not likely to face any opposition in Lok Sabha owing to its overwhelming majority in the Lower House,



Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) activists shout slogans during a demonstration against the government's Citizenship Amendment Bill, in Guwahati, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

CAB likely to be tabled in LS on Dec 9

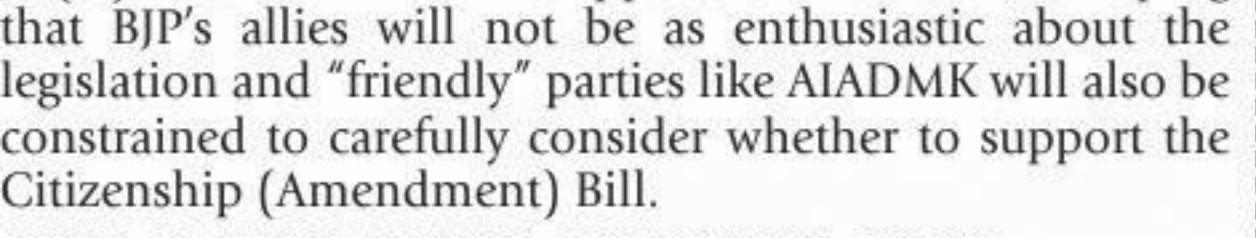
By India Online

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) that seeks to give citizenship to all non-Muslim immigrants facing persecution in the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh is likely to be tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to sources quoted by ANI, the Business Advisory Committee of the Lower House, which met earlier yesterday, has taken the decision to introduce CAB on December 9.

The Union Cabinet had cleared the Bill during a crucial meeting on Wednesday, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Following Modi cabinet's nod, the citizenship bill is expected to be introduced by the Home Minister in the current winter session on Monday.

SOURCE: TIMES OF INDIA ONLINE



in Rajya Sabha it is banking on the support of allies like JD(U) and Akali Dal. The opposition, however, is hoping that BJP's allies will not be as enthusiastic about the legislation and "friendly" parties like AIADMK will also be constrained to carefully consider whether to support the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

WHY ARE N-E STATES OPPOSING BILL?

The CAB has sparked resentment in the northeast as it is feared that granting citizenship to foreign refugees will undermine the ethnic communities living in these regions. There are indications that the government is working out a compromise. Formulations like provision of citizenship not leading to residency status in the smaller north-east states were discussed.

WHY HAS AGP TAKEN A U-TURN?

In January last year, BJP's ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) had pulled out of NDA after Lok Sabha passed the earlier version of the Bill, which BJP had introduced in Parliament in 2016. When the Bill lapsed in the Lok Sabha, AGP returned to the alliance. Recently, the AGP has indicated a U-turn on the proposed Bill. "We have to move forward with the reality..." AGP member and Assam minister Atul Bora said.

SOURCE: TIMES OF INDIA ONLINE

N Korea warns Trump Says it will use 'corresponding' force if attacked

By AP, Seoul

North Korea on Wednesday warned that if the United States used military force against Pyongyang it would take "prompt corresponding actions at any level", in response to comments by US President Donald Trump.

Denuclearisation negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington have been deadlocked since a summit in Hanoi broke up in February, and the renewed threats come as a deadline set by Pyongyang for fresh concessions approaches.

Trump on Tuesday indicated that military action was still possible when he was asked about North Korea on the sidelines of a Nato summit in Britain on Tuesday.

"He definitely likes sending rockets up, doesn't he? That's why I call him 'Rocket Man,'" Trump said of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"We have the most powerful military we've ever had, and we're by far the most powerful country in the world. And, hopefully, we don't have to use it, but if we do, we'll use it. If we have to, we'll do it," Trump added.

Responding on Wednesday Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army said he was "greatly disappointed" by Trump's comments, the official KCNA news agency said.

Trump indicated that US military action was still possible during UK visit

European UNSC members condemn Pyongyang's ballistic missile launches



North Korea on Wednesday warned that if the United States used military force against Pyongyang it would take "prompt corresponding actions at any level", in response to comments by US President Donald Trump.

"If the US uses any armed forces against the DPRK, we will also take prompt corresponding actions at any level," he added, using the initials of North Korea's official name.

North Korea has demanded the US offer it fresh concessions by the end of the year -- ahead of Kim's New Year speech on January 1, a key political set-piece in the isolated country.

Pyongyang has also issued a series of increasingly assertive comments in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, European members of the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday condemned North Korea's "provocative" ballistic missile launches, and reaffirmed the need to enforce sanctions against the country.

Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom are deeply concerned by the continued testing of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including the missile launches of 28 November," read the statement.

The Europeans noted that Pyongyang "has conducted 13 sets of ballistic missile launches since May and continued to operate its nuclear program.

The statement called "on the international community to comply with the obligation to strictly enforce these sanctions."



An Indonesian woman is whipped in public on charges of engaging in pre-marital relation, in Aceh Timur yesterday. Two Indonesian men and a woman were whipped in Aceh province after they were found guilty of having pre-marital relations, a serious crime under the conservative region's Islamic law.

PHOTO: AFP

On Wednesday, a 23-year-old rape victim was set ablaze by a gang of men, including the alleged rapist, as she made her way to court in the northern India yesterday, police said, stirring public outrage and shame over the scourge of crimes against women.

During the past week, thousands of Indians have protested in several cities following the alleged rape and murder of a 27-year-old vet near the southern city of Hyderabad.

Protesters and parliamentarians are pressing for courts to fast-track rape cases and demanding tougher penalties.

The woman attacked and burned yesterday morning was in a critical condition, according to D.S. Negi, a doctor at the Civil Hospital in Lucknow, the capital of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

She had been on her way to catch a train in Unnao district to attend a hearing when she was doused with kerosene and set on fire, police said.

"As per victim's statement five people were involved in setting her on fire, including the one who was accused in the rape case," Vikrant Vir, a police superintendent in Unnao, told Reuters.

All five men have been detained, Uttar Pradesh police said in a tweet.

Police documents seen by Reuters showed the woman had filed a complaint with Unnao police in March alleging that she had been raped at gun-point on December 12, 2018.

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