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Kerala passes resolution seeking CAA withdrawal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: In a rare show of unity, the Kerala assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution demanding that the Centre withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 immediately, making the state the first to oppose the controversial law legislatively. Speaker P Sreedharakrishnan said by passing the resolution, the assembly has 'raised its status' and Kerala has led by example, though it is moot that the resolution will have any impact beyond its symbolism.

All members of the serving LDF and the opposition UDF supported the resolution moved by CM Pinarayi Vijayan in the special session, saying the amended law was damaging to the basic values of India's Constitution and secularism. O Rajagopal, the lone BJP MLA in the 140-member House, opposed the resolution, terming it "illegal and unconstitutional".

Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is in Kerala as part of a campaign to clarify on CAA, dismissed the resolution, saying that the state should have sought prop-

Initiate contempt proceedings against CM Vijayan, BJP MP writes to RS chair

BJP MP GVL Narasimha Rao has filed a petition with Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu seeking to initiate breach of privileges and contempt proceedings against Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan after the state passed a resolution terming the Citizenship Amendment Act as "illegal and unconstitutional". Rao has sought discussion on this issue in the next meeting of the privileges committee of the Rajya Sabha, scheduled for January 3, of which he is a member. Noting that the resolution was moved by Vijayan, Rao wrote to Naidu that if the chief minister's "misdemeanour and ill-conceived" statements and actions go unchecked, it will set a dangerous precedent and lead to administrative chaos and constitutional mayhem in the country. "What (then) stops one state legislature from passing a similar resolution against another state government or Parliament, Rao said. TNN

er legal advice before venturing beyond its brief. "It is only Parliament which has got the power to make law in this regard and no other assembly, including Kerala assembly (has the power)," he said.

The resolution said CAA is in violation of the Right to Equality stated in Part III of the Constitution. "Considering rising concerns among majority of people about possible discrimination based on religion under the CAA, which would also destroy the concept of secularism envisaged by the Indian Constitution, the Kerala legislative as-

sembly requests the central government to initiate measures to cancel the Act," it said. Though UDF suggested an amendment to the resolution asking the Centre to stop all procedures for implementing the CAA until further decision, Vijayan said the Union government could withdraw it immediately through an ordinance and any request for interim measures would weaken the resolution.

Presenting the resolution, he said the CAA has led to nationwide protests besides destroying the global image of the country.