

## WAQF BILL

# Panel meets Muslim bodies

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (PTI)

**A MEETING** of the joint committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill on Friday witnessed fireworks with members vociferously opposing certain provisions of the draft legislation, leading to a brief walkout by Opposition members.

The panel, chaired by BJP member Jagdambika Pal, heard the views of All India Sunni Jamiyatul Ulama of Mumbai, Delhi-based Indian Muslims for Civil Rights (IMCR), Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board and Rajasthan Board of Muslim Waqf during the day-long sitting lasting nearly eight hours.

The main bone of contention were the provisions of 'declaration of Waqf by user', designation of District Collector as the primary authority in determining the classification of

## Committee also seeks views from experts

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**THE** panel also sought suggestions from stakeholders, experts and other institutions on the proposed law.

According to a statement issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the committee led by BJP's Jagdambika Pal has asked for "views/suggestions from the public in general and NGOs, experts, stakeholders and institutions in particular" considering the "wider implications" of the bill. People have been asked to share their suggestions in writing in the next 15 days.

property as Waqf and inclusion of non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council and State boards.

Certain remarks made by BJP member Dilip Saikia against AAP member Sanjay Singh led to a heated exchange between the Opposition and BJP members.

There was uproar during the proceedings as objections were raised over the presence of a lawyer as a representative of both Indian Muslims for Civil Rights and the Rajasthan Board of Muslim Waqf.

The issue of the presence of the lawyer during two separate depositions led to a brief walkout by Opposition members including Mohammad Jawed and Imran Masood (both Congress), Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT), Sanjay Singh (AAP), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIM-IM), A Raja and M Mohamed

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# Pensioners' body meets Nirmala; seeks minimum Rs 7,500 monthly pension

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (PTI)

REPRESENTATIVES of the pensioners' body EPS-95 National Agitation Committee on Friday met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and demanded that the minimum pension should be raised to Rs 7,500 per month.

Sitharaman, according to the committee, assured that the Government is sensitive to their needs and will try to find a way out to meet their demand.

EPS-95 National Agitation Committee (NAC) includes around 78 lakh retired pensioners and 7.5 crore working employees of industrial sectors. "Assuring the delegation,



Delegation of EPS-95 National Agitation Committee calls on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Friday.

(ANI)

the Finance Minister said the Government was sensitive to the needs of the elderly and took serious note of the proposals put across by the EPFO. She it-

erated her assurance that the Government is committed to ensuring financial security for pensioners and a way out will be found," a statement said.

# Doval meets SL President and other leaders for political consultations

COLOMBO, Aug 30 (PTI)

NATIONAL Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Friday held wide-ranging political consultations with President Ranil Wickremesinghe and other Sri Lankan leaders here ahead of the presidential election on September 21.

Doval, who is here to follow up on the ongoing Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) initiative, met Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, the main Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and the Marxist JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

All, barring Gunawardena, are presidential candidate front runners. During the meeting with Wickremesinghe at the Presidential Secretariat, they discussed ongoing economic collaboration between Sri



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval with President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe during a meeting. (PTI)

Lanka and India, according to the Presidential Media Division (PMD). Senior Advisor to the President on National Security, Sagala Ratnayake, also attended the meeting. "Doval expressed India's desire to expand cooperation with Sri Lanka further and sought the Prime Minister's views on priority areas," news portal 'Adaderana.Lk' reported.

## Colombo Security Conclave signs Charter and MoU for Secretariat

COLOMBO, Aug 30 (PTI)

NATIONAL Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the representatives of the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka on Friday signed the Charter and an MoU for the establishment of the Colombo Security Conclave Secretariat here to promote regional security by addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern to the member states. The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) brings together National Security Advisors (NSA) and Deputy NSAs from India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius. It deals with maritime security, counter-terrorism and cyber security with India bringing to the fore its own strategic concerns in the Indian Ocean and promotes regional security by addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern to the Member States.

"Pursuant to the discussions at the 6th NSA level meeting of CSC held in December 2023 in Mauritius, the Charter & MoU for the establishment of the CSC Secretariat were signed in Colombo on August 30, 2024 by India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka", the Indian High Commission here said. "Doval highlighted the significance of the Founding Documents to further bolster CSC's pivotal role in ensuring regional security and stability. "Emphasising the role of CSC in ensuring sustained engagement across diverse pillars of cooperation, he (Doval) stressed the importance of collective efforts in addressing traditional, non-traditional, and emerging hybrid challenges in the Indian Ocean Region," the High Commission added.

# Manipur can't be broken: CM

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (PTI)

MANIPUR Chief Minister N Biren Singh has emphatically rejected the demand by Kuki groups for a separate administration, presenting himself as a champion of the State's interest and one who will not allow its identity to be diluted.



In an interview to PTI Videos on Thursday, he described Manipur as a small, hardworking State and said "our forefathers" have a history of 2,000 years. "Many sacrifices were made to make this State. This State can't be broken or have a separate administration. We will not allow this," the Chief Minister stated. This is the first unequivocal rejection of the demand by

Kukis. At a press conference on Thursday in New Delhi, some representatives of Kuki-zo communities demanded the creation of a Union Territory with a legislature along the lines of Puducherry, arguing that it is the only way out of strife.

Singh, a Meitei accused by Kukis of siding with his community in the ethnic violence which erupted in May last year and polarised Manipur society like never before, has, however, expressed his support for a special development package for the State's hilly region where Kukis live.

"We can look at what can be done through the autonomous councils (present in hill districts) with focus on development," he said.