

Lok Sabha to take up Waqf amendment bill for consideration and passage amid strong opposition

MI News Service, New Delhi: As the entire opposition is gearing up to put up a strong resistance during discussions on the consideration and passage of the Waqf amendment bill in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, it might spark off lots of heated verbal exchanges among the members of different political parties.

After eight hours of proposed discussion, Minorities Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju will respond to the debate and seek the approval of the House for its passage.

The issue came for discussion at the meeting of the business advisory committee (BAC) chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday, informed sources said.

While introducing the bill last year, the government had proposed referring it to a joint committee of the two Houses. After the report was submitted by the panel, the Union Cabinet had approved certain changes to the original bill based on the committee's recommendation.

At the BAC meet, while the opposition sought 12 hours for discussion, government insisted on lesser time so that other legislative business could also be taken up.

This led to heated verbal exchange in the meeting between the government and the opposition, leading to a walk out by the opposition.

Later, talking to reporters Rijju said some parties wanted four to six hours of debate, while the opposition

insisted on 12 hours. Finally the Speaker decided for eight hours debate, extendable after taking sense of the House, he said and wondered why the opposition walked out of the BAC meet.

He said immediately after the Question Hour which concludes at 12 noon, he will move the bill for consideration and passage.

Hitting out at the opposition, he claimed that some parties are trying to create some excuses to run away from the discussion.

Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said the opposition stormed out of BAC meet as the government was bulldozing its agenda and de-

mands for discussions on voter card-Aadhaar seeding were not accepted.

"There is no space for the opposition," he alleged.

Rijju said the Rajya Sabha will be communicated about the passage of the bill by the lower house for it to take a call. Opposition parties are strongly opposing the bill, slamming it as unconstitutional and against the interest of the Muslim community. Several leading Muslim organisations have been rallying support against the bill. However, according to government sources, the bill seeks to improve the management and administration of Waqf properties in India. The session will conclude on April 4.

Assam CM condemns Md Yunus calling B'desh 'guardian of the ocean'

MI News Service, Guwahati: Severely condemning the recent comment of Muhammad Yunus, the Chief of the Bangladesh's Interim Government that his country is the "only guardian of the ocean" in the region, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday described it as "offensive and strongly condemnable".

Making this comment Muhammad Yunus has also urged Beijing during his recent four day visit to China, to extend its economic influence to Bangladesh, since India's all seven Northeastern states are landlocked, it could prove to be an opportunity.

The remark, apparently made during Yunus' recent visit to China, surfaced on social media on Monday. "The statement made by Md Yunus of Bangladesh, the so-called interim Government referring to the seven sister states of Northeast India as landlocked and positioning Bangladesh as their guardian of ocean access, is offensive and strongly condemnable," Sarma posted on X.

"Such provocative statements by Md Yunus must not be taken lightly, as they reflect deeper strategic considerations and longstanding agendas," he added.

Calling Bangladesh the "only guardian of the ocean" in the region, Yunus said this could be a huge opportunity and could be an extension of the Chinese economy.

"The seven states of India, the eastern part of India, are called the seven sisters. They are a landlocked region of India. They have no way to reach out to the ocean," he said.

Sarma pointed out that this remark underscores the "persistent vulnerability narrative associated with India's strategic 'Chicken's Neck' corridor". "Historically, even internal elements within India have dangerously suggested severing this critical passageway to isolate the Northeast from the mainland physically. Therefore, it is imperative to develop more robust railway and road networks both underneath and around the Chicken's Neck corridor," he said.

Sarma also called for the prioritisation of exploring

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West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and TMC's National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee attended the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations at Red Road in Kolkata on Monday.

Modi govt taking several steps to increase farm income, claims Agri minister

MI News Service, New Delhi: Emphasising that Narendra Modi government has initiated a number of positive steps to increase farm income, Agriculture Minister Shriyraj Singh Chouhan told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the government has also insulated farmers from high fertiliser prices in the international markets.

"Our vision is to increase farm income and we are leaving no stone unturned to achieve that

vision. Farmer welfare is Modi government's guarantee," Chouhan said during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha.

He said the Modi government is giving Rs 6,000 per month to farmers under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.

To a question by SP member Anand Bhaduria on whether the government will waive farm loans, Chouhan said "several steps are being taken by the Modi government to increase farm income, as

well as to increase production, to reduce the cost of production and helping them to sell their produce. Farm loans are increasing, and under Modi (government), income of farmers is continuously increasing."

Chouhan further said that fertiliser prices have been increasing in the international markets and the government has budgeted Rs 1.77 lakh crore towards fertiliser subsidy in the current fiscal.

"It is the Modi govern-

ment's commitment that the burden of increasing fertiliser prices in international markets will not fall on farmers. Farmer welfare is in BJP's DNA", Chouhan said. To a question by BJP member Parshottam Rupala, the Minister said under the Modi government, more than 75 per cent of small and marginal farmers are availing loans at 4 per cent interest rate. This is unique and will not be found anywhere in the world, he asserted.

Cal HC quashes defamation case, holds public interest outweighs right to reputation

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court has quashed a defamation case filed by the superintendent of an educational institution against more than 280 people who had submitted a mass petition to the Chief Minister against him, holding that it pertains to public interest outweighing the right to reputation.

Delivering a judgment on a petition challenging the criminal defamation case filed before the Bardhaman district court in 2013 by the superintendent, Justice Ajay Kumar Gupta ruled that the complainant failed to substantiate his allegations of defamation against the petitioners.

"The mass complaint, filed against the complainant by 287 individuals, is privileged in nature as it pertains to a matter of public interest

outweighing the right to reputation," the court stated in its recent judgment.

The petition, addressed to the West Bengal Chief Minister, accused the complainant of engaging in illegal activities at the educational institution, which had been established by a freedom fighter in the then undivided Bardhaman district.

The petitioners sought an inquiry and appropriate action in the interest of the students and the institution. The court noted that the allegations against the superintendent were already under inquiry and investigation. Rajdeep Mazumder, senior counsel representing the petitioners seeking to quash the defamation case, argued before the court that the superintendent's complaint before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's

Court, Bardhaman, was mala fide, motivated and frivolous.

Justice Gupta observed that making an accusation in good faith against a person to a lawful authority over the accused does not constitute defamation.

The court further noted that in this case, over 280 people had signed the mass petition, making the same allegations against the complainant.

Justice Gupta emphasised that the petition was submitted confidentially to the appropriate authorities as part of the petitioners' legal and natural rights.

This mass petition is for the protection of the institution and its students, the court said, holding that it "cannot be construed as malice or an imputation of reputation in public or society."

PM Modi holds talks with Chile President on bilateral ties

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chile President Gabriel Boric Font at Hyderabad House here on Tuesday and held hour long talks with him on the scope of further expanding the bilateral ties between the two far off countries on trade, commerce, tourism and cultural fields.

Informing this the Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said.

PM Modi and Font held extensive discussions on various aspects of expanding India-Chile bilateral ties.

In a post on X, he said, "PM Modi warmly received President Gabriel Boric Font of Chile at Hyderabad House and had extensive discussions on expanding the strong India-Chile bilateral ties on various fronts including trade, commerce, tourism and culture..."

Earlier in the day, Font paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat and also signed the visitors' diary.

In a post on X, Font said, "Together with our delegation of ministers and parliamentarians, we paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat, the memorial erected in his honor in New Delhi. His legacy reminds us that with India, we not only share common interests and a future of great opportunities for our people, but also shared fundamental values."

The Chile President said his country's delegation is in India to "further strengthen our ties, and that's why I'm joined by government officials, the National Congress, business leaders, leaders in the fields of innovation and culture, distinguished professors, and students."

"We're here to strengthen our ties, and

that's why I'm joined by government officials, the National Congress, business leaders, leaders in the fields of innovation and culture, distinguished professors, and students. A busy schedule, I'll keep you posted!" he said in his post on X.

The Chilean President also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the start of his State visit to India, reaffirming the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chilean President's five day official visit from April 1-5 is aimed at strengthening economic, political, and cultural ties. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, members of parliament, senior officials, business leaders, media representatives, and cultural figures engaged in India-Chile exchanges.

Politics is never a full-time occupation for him as he always remains a Yogi at heart, says UP CM Adityanath

MI News Service, Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has once again reiterated that politics is never a full-time occupation for him and he always remains a Yogi (saint) at heart.

Categorically dismissing reports in a section of media that wide differences had cropped up between him and BJP's central leadership, Yogi Adityanath made it clear that he is in the Chief minister's chair because of the wishes of the party and its senior leaders.

"Can I remain in the chair in spite of having some minor differences with the party's central leaders," Adityanath asked, adding that he cannot shut the mouth of those who are stoking speculation about such differences.

To a query about the possibility of his becoming the next Prime minister of India after Narendra Modi retires, the UP Chief minister smilingly parried the question and refused to drag himself into any such debate.



About the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) support for him, he said the Hindutva organisation backs anyone who is "committed to Bharat" and will inspire those who are not to turn to the right path.

The chief minister said his primary role is serving the people of Uttar Pradesh to the best of his ability, as entrusted by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"I only know that at present I am the Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, and the party has placed me here to serve the people of the state," he said.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that

the support for him was also growing rapidly among a section of people who also think that he is the future prime minister, Adityanath again said, "Politics is not a full-time job for me. Ultimately, I am only a yogi (saint) at heart."

The saint turned politician also downplayed a question about his popularity as a star BJP campaigner in states outside Uttar Pradesh, saying all the Chief ministers are part of the party's electioneering. He, however, added, "It may be that people having experienced the Uttar Pradesh of 17

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18 workers killed, several injured in a firecracker factory explosion in Gujarat

MI News Service, Ahmedabad: As many as 18 people were killed and several other sustained injuries, some of them seriously, in a massive explosion at a firecracker factory in an industrial area in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Tuesday.

Informing this official sources here today said the blast occurred at a factory unit near Deesa town of the dis-

trict. "As many as 18 people died in the hue blast, while 15 others sustained various types of injuries after a portion of the roof of the building collapsed under the massive impact of the explosion."

Superintendent of district Police Akshayraj Makwana said most of the victims were workers from Madhya

Pradesh and some of their relatives. Banaskantha collector Mihir Patel said that the explosion occurred at the factory around 9:45am, causing the entire RCC slab to collapse. "The whole RCC slab had collapsed. The relief teams are removing the debris," the collector said.

The unit was meant to store firecrackers, and so far, no clue has been

found that firecrackers were being manufactured. Earlier, officials had said it was a factory.

Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel expressed grief over the incident and announced a financial assistance of 4 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and 50,000 to every injured..

"The incident of the death of workers due to fire and slab collapse in a

firecracker godown in Deesa is heart-breaking. My heartfelt condolences are with the relatives of the deceased in this hour of grief," Patel said in a post on X. "I am in constant touch with the administration regarding the relief, rescue and treatment work in this accident. I have instructed the

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India looks amazing from space, for sure visit the country', says astronaut Sunita Williams

MI News Service, Houston / Washington (DC): India is amazing from space, NASA astronaut Sunita Williams asserted and hoped that she will visit her "father's home country" and share experiences about space exploration with people there sometime soon.

Williams made these remarks during a packed press conference at the NASA centre in Houston, Texas on Monday evening. She was responding to a question on how India looked from space when she was in the International Space Station and on the possi-

bility of her collaborating with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on space exploration.

"India is amazing. Every time we went over the Himalayas, and I'll tell you, Butch got some incredible pictures of the Hi-

malayas. Just amazing," Williams said.

Sharing her plans to visit India to share her space exploration experiences, the NASA astronaut expressed her admiration for India's beauty from space.

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has

confirmed that she will visit her "father's home country" India and share experiences about space exploration with people there along with fellow astronaut Butch

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Politics is never a full-time...

From PG 1 years back can see the changes more starkly. There is an enthusiasm as devotees and people from all over the country visit Uttar Pradesh... creates new challenges. However, when one dedicates themselves to a higher purpose, it opens up new avenues for progress...

18 workers killed, several....

From PG 1 administration to ensure that the injured get proper treatment at the earliest. The state government will provide an assistance of 4 lakh to the families of the deceased and 50,000 to the injured... Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also expressed grief over the death of several migrant workers from MP...

TMC Disciplinary Comm to summon absent MLAs over budget session no-shows

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant development, over 30 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), including Minister Manoj Tiwari, were absent during the crucial budget session of the West Bengal Assembly. This absence occurred despite a strict party whip issued by TMC to ensure the presence of all lawmakers...



The dog squad inspects the Indian Museum in Kolkata following a bomb threat on Tuesday.

KMC revises tax waiver scheme rules

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has introduced significant changes to its tax waiver scheme, marking a departure from the previous system. Under the old rules, taxpayers could apply for the waiver and, once granted, pay the reduced amount, thus enjoying immediate relief...

Assam CM condemns Md Yunus calling....

From PG 1 alternative road routes connecting the Northeast to the rest of India, effectively bypassing the 'Chicken's Neck'. He said that this may pose significant engineering challenges, but it can be achieved with "determination and innovation"...

Boiparay Boi Utsav inaugurated at College Square

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Boiparay Boi Utsav has been inaugurated at College Square Ground (Vidyasagar Udyan), a historic venue that naturally attracts book lovers. Organized by the Publishers and Booksellers Guild with support from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation...



Boiparay Boi Utsav was inaugurated by eminent author Sanjib Chattopadhyay, in the presence of KMC Mayor in Council Debashish Kumar along with Joy Goswami, Sriyato Banerjee, Guild President Tridib Kr. Chatterjee and Guild General Secretary Sudhangshu Sekhar Dey and other dignitaries at College Square Ground (Vidyasagar Udyan) in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Allegations of damage to iconic Coffee House building

MI News Service, Kolkata: There are serious allegations that the iconic Coffee House building in Kolkata is being compromised by unscrupulous businessmen. Reports suggest that a businessman has purchased a section of the building and is constructing three smaller shops in the space...

Lawyers protest transfer of Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma

MI News Service, Kolkata: After the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to transfer Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma from the Delhi High Court to the Calcutta High Court, three lawyer organizations of the Calcutta High Court called for the review and withdrawal of the decision. The organizations also sent a letter to the Chief Justice of India, urging him to reconsider the decision...

Bomb threat sparks panic at Indian Museum

MI News Service, Kolkata: A fresh bomb threat via email triggered widespread panic at the Indian Museum in Kolkata on Tuesday morning. The alarming message prompted immediate action from the authorities, leading to a swift evacuation of the museum premises...

India looks amazing from....

From PG 1 Wilmore since their return to Earth as part of the SpaceX Crew-9 mission last month having been stranded in space for over nine months. When asked how India looked from space when she was in the International Space Station and on the possibility of her collaborating with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on space exploration...

Woman found dead under mysterious circumstance

MI News Service, Kolkata: The body of a young woman, Manisha Ray, has been discovered in a flat in the upscale area of Deshbandhunagar. The 28-year-old woman, a bar dancer by profession, was found dead in her third-floor flat on Tuesday morning. According to police sources, Manisha was celebrating a birthday party with her male friend, Antarjami Soren...

Uncivilized activities will attract Bulldozer justice: Yogi to Muslims

MI News Service, Ayodhya: Yogi Adityanath, the non-nonsense ascetic chief minister of Uttar Pradesh who wears anti-woleism on his sleeve, has a clear message for Muslims: you will get a fair share of the state's development but don't expect special concessions just because you are a minority.

He said the Uttar Pradesh government was teaching languages such as Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali and Marathi to students. "Does this diminish Uttar Pradesh in any way? Does it make UP look small?" he asked.

He, however, did not give details and Congress leader Karti Chidambaram challenged him to provide a list of schools that teach south Indian languages. The chief minister said everyone believes Hindi should be respected, but India has adopted the three-language formula.

Adityanath excoriated Waqf boards, saying they have become a means to appropriate government properties without ever giving anything back to the society, least of all to the Muslim community.

"It (Waqf) has become a medium to capture any government property. This reform is the need of the hour, and all reforms draw opposition. I believe Muslims will benefit from this (proposed law)," he said.

This three-language formula ensures that regional languages also get the same respect. Every language has its own speciality which becomes the cornerstone of national unity," Adityanath said.

"Politics is not a full-time job for me. Ultimately, I am a Yogi (monk) at heart," he said on his supporters seeing him as a future prime minister.

"There will be a time frame for this as well," he said to a question on how long he sees himself in politics. "I am the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, and the party has placed me here to serve the people of the state."

He also asserted that the NDA will once again win Bihar assembly elections under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national and Nitish Kumar's state leadership.

"Roads are meant for walking. And those who are speaking (against the decision) should learn discipline from Hindus. Sixty-six crore people arrived in Prayagraj. There was no robbery, destruction of property, arson, abduction..."

"If politics is driven by self-interest, it will create problems. But if it is for the greater good, it will provide solutions. We have to choose between being part of the problem or the solution, and I believe this is what religion also teaches us."

The chief minister dismissed talks about any differences with the party's central leadership, saying he would not have been in his chair if there were any differences. On allegations from opposition parties that the actual death figures in the Mahakumbh stampede were concealed, he said that hundreds of people used to die when Kumbh was held during the opposition rule and therefore they were talking about casualties in hundreds this time also.

Asked about the row over the warning by his administration in Meerut against offering namaz on roads, he staunchly defended the government's move, saying there was nothing wrong in it.

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Waqf law communal, anti-constitution, Delhi HC upholds disability pension for soldiers support Modi's Waqf Amendment Bill: Catholic Bishops Conf of India

MI News Service, Kochi: The apex national body of Catholic bishops came out in support of the amendments to the waqf law, contending that some of its provisions were "inconsistent with the Constitution and the secular democratic values of the country."

The statement of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) comes at a time the government seeks to table the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the ongoing budget session of Parliament. Earlier, the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council had asked MPs across political parties to vote in favour of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which has faced resistance from the Opposition and Muslim groups.

The court recalled former US President John F. Kennedy's "stirring words" as patriotism and said that while "we sip our hot cappuccinos by the fireplace", soldiers are "braving icy winds at the border, willing to lay down their lives at a moment's notice."

"The possibility of disease and disability, therefore, comes as a package deal with the desire and determination to serve the country. The bravest of soldiers is prone, given the conditions in which he serves the nation, to fall prey to bodily ailments, which, at times, may be disabling in nature, rendering him unable to continue in military service," the bench, also having Justice Ajay Diggpaul, said.

Notice regarding Power of Attorney as per West Bengal Govt Order No. 1000-15/22/2024 dated 27.02.2024. This is to notify DHARMENDRABROY S/o Mr. Ramdoyal Roy...

Eastern Railway - Tender: Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/2025/10, Date: 28.03.2025. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs.

E-KGP-HQ-10-2025. Description of work: Manufacturing and Supply of Alumino Thermic welding portions of 60Kg/90UTS rails (2346 Nos. Joints) and 60Kg/60EI-R260 grade rails (2483 Nos.) as approved by RDSO and welding in-situ with single shot crucible as per IR Specification in connection with track renewal and maintenance work in Kharagpur division under the jurisdiction of DEN(HQ) Kharagpur (Total 4809 Joints). Tender Value: ₹ 1,08,72,240.10. EMD: ₹ 2,04,400. Completion period of work: 12 months.

E-KGP-HQ-11-2025. Description of work: Replacement of over aged/dilapidated steel tanks by RCC overhead tank (capacity up to 1,000 Gallon) at (1) Scrap Yard Kharagpur, (2) Traffic Settlement Kharagpur & (3) Shalimar Ganga end in Kharagpur Division (2nd Cell). Tender Value: ₹ 4,23,71,063.97. EMD: ₹ 3,61,900. Completion period of work: 12 months.

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ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091. The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Loan Account Number & Address, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date. It lists various defaulted loans across different locations like Kharagpur, Siliguri, and various residential areas.

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Metro Railway, Kolkata. E-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: Name of work: "Provision of Foot Over Bridge in between IPD & OPD blocks of Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital of Metro Railway, Kolkata."

These steps are taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower(s) and/or guarantor(s) (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice.

