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## Puducherry passes resolution against CAA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUDUCHERRY

After Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal, the Puducherry Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

The ruling Congress went a step ahead, adopting another resolution condemning the BJP govern-

ment's "attempts" to destroy India's secular fabric.

At a special session, Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy said the CAA, along with the plan to prepare a pan-India National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR), would destroy India's unity and secular character.

Terming the CAA "discriminatory and unconstitu-

tional", the Chief Minister said that by excluding Muslims from the purview of the Act, the Centre was preparing the ground for a "Hindu Rashtra", as envisaged by the RSS. The aim was to whip up communal passions and divide people on religious lines to reap political dividends, he said.

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Mr. Narayanasamy underscored his government's intention to carry out the Census without seeking additional information from people, such as their religious identity, date of birth and the details of parents.

Referring to the February 10 letter, written by Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi, cautioning the government against passing a resolution against the CAA, he said he would not be cowed down by threats. "I have made it clear when Parliament passed the amendment to the Citizenship Act that it would not be implemented even at the cost of my go-

vernment. I challenge the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to dismiss my government for adopting the resolution," Mr. Narayanasamy said.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister K. Lakshminarayanan said the Union Territory had more responsibility to bring a resolution against the CAA as it was bound to give freedom to the people on citizenship under the de facto merger agreement with the Indian Union.

The CAA, the NRC and the NPR were aimed at suppressing the rights of Muslims, he said.