

Assembly to hold debate on Constitution on March 2 and 3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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As the public debate over the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the Constitution of India continues across the nation, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly has decided to set aside two days - March 2 and 3 - for a special discussion on the significance of the Constitution and extent to which it has succeeded in meeting aspirations of people in the last 70 years.

Assembly Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri told media persons on Friday that the Assembly would act as a

Bills to be tabled in Assembly

■ Karnataka Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2020

■ Karnataka Innovation Authority Bill, 2020

■ National Law School of India University (Amendment) Bill, 2020

■ Karnataka State Language (Amendment) Bill, 2020

■ Karnataka Urban Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

■ Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Bill, 2020

platform for legislators to speak about the relevance of the Constitution. He held a round of discussion with senior legislators and they have expressed willingness to participate in the debate. More details of the discus-

sion would be worked out in the next few days after a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the House on February 18, Mr. Kageri said. Asked whether it would be possible to have discussions above partisan

politics on the Constitution in the present scenario, Mr. Kageri said: "I have appealed to members that they should discuss the Constitution beyond their political prism." Each member will speak on a particular topic of the Constitution, he said.

On a question whether the Assembly would pass a resolution on CAA after the discussion, the Speaker said there was no such proposal before him.

Mr. Kageri said he had planned to hold a conference on the Constitution in November last but the programme was cancelled ow-

ing to bypolls to 15 Legislative Assembly constituencies.

Governor Vajubhai Vala will address the joint session of the State legislature on Monday at 11 a.m. The House will discuss the vote on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address till February 20. The House will be adjourned on February 20 for meeting again on March 2 and it will conclude on March 31.

Mr. Kageri said Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who also holds the Finance Minister portfolio, will present the State budget on March 5.

Media restrictions continue

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Restrictions continue on media coverage of the proceedings of the State Assembly, which will commence on Monday.

The restrictions came into effect last year after Assembly Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri took charge.

While there are no restrictions on reporters from private news channels, they will not be allowed to shoot the proceedings. With no

permission to directly air the feed, the output will now be shared by the Karnataka government with media houses on the lines of how it is done in Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV. Mr. Kageri told media persons on Friday.

No cameras

Reporters, meanwhile, will be allowed to sit in the press gallery to view the proceedings. Cameras of private channels, however, will not be allowed.