

**REAL ESTATE
OUTLOOK 2020**

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



A day after jibe at Amazon, Goyal says 'all investments welcome'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

A DAY after he said that e-commerce major Amazon was not doing India "a great favour" by investing \$1 billion in the country, Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal said Friday the country welcomed "all kinds of investments" that follow the "letter and spirit" of the law.

Earlier Friday, Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos said in Mumbai that the company was "investing to create a million new jobs here in India over the next five years", in addition to the 700,000 jobs its investments have enabled over the last six years in India. Currently in India, he had announced earlier this week that Amazon would invest \$1 billion in the country to digitise small and medium businesses.

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Solar imports soar, it's now more Make-in-China than Make-in-India

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

FIVE YEARS of a concerted solar power push, a key policy thrust area for the NDA government, has come at a cost — the value of solar photovoltaic (PV) cells and modules imported since FY'14 adds up to \$12.93 billion, or Rs 90,000 crore.

An estimated 85 per cent of this equipment has been imported from three countries — primarily China, alongside Vietnam and Malaysia — with a surge coinciding with the rollout of the Centre's 'Make-in-India' programme.

The amount spent on imports of PV cells and modules in

AMARINDER SAYS WILL GO TO SUPREME COURT

Punjab Assembly goes a step beyond Kerala: Scrap CAA, change NPR forms

This is exactly what happened in Germany in the 1930s, CM tells House

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 17

THE PUNJAB Assembly passed a resolution Friday demanding the repeal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and went beyond Kerala in seeking amendments to the forms/documentation associated with the National Population Register process.

In remarks outside the House later, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said like Kerala, his government too would approach the Supreme Court on the issue of CAA. He made it clear that the Census in Punjab would be conducted on old parameters and new factors added by the Centre for the purpose of NPR would not be included.

Earlier, the Chief Minister, speaking in the House, said: "What is this happening in our country? So many people killed in UP, students protesting all over. This is exactly what happened in Germany in the 1930s. The Communists were targeted first and then Jews were killed. This is the time to speak up. Germans did not speak then, and they regretted it, but we have to speak now, so that we don't regret later," he said.

Targeting the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) for its stand on the CAA and NRC, Amarinder Singh said the Akalis were supporting the legislation in Parliament and speaking in different voices to promote their political agenda. "I will send you a copy of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. Read it. What happened then is happening now. I will send a copy in Punjab," he said.

"Where will the 18 lakh people declared illegal in Assam go if other countries refuse to take them? Has anyone thought

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Chief Minister Amarinder Singh at the Punjab Assembly on Friday in Chandigarh. Kamleshwar Singh

At meeting on NPR, Opp states object to question on place & birth of parents

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

OPPOSITION RULED STATES raised objections to new questions introduced in the 2020 National Population Register (NPR) form at a meeting Friday with Union Home Secretary AK Bhalla and officials of the Registrar General of India (RGI).

Sources said the states sought clarification in particular on Question No. 13 (II) of the NPR form which seeks information on the date and place of birth of an individual's parents.

After the meeting, Rajasthan Chief Secretary D B Gupta said: "We told RGI that asking date and place of birth of parents was impractical as people in this



Chief Secys, Census officers of states minus Bengal came for meeting. Praveen Khanna

country do not remember their own date of birth. The RGI said this question had been asked earlier and remains voluntary."

RGI officials briefed the meeting of Chief Secretaries and Census officials of all states and

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CAA rules not in but UP sends out form to identify migrants, list 'persecution'



The form sent to all District Magistrates in UP

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 17

THE RULES for operationalising the Citizenship (Amendment) Act are yet to be framed, but the Uttar Pradesh government has already initiated the process of collecting information about refugees and migrants in a prescribed format from district authorities across the state.

According to the administrative heads of at least four districts *The Indian Express* spoke with, the current exercise can be taken as the beginning of the process for implementation of CAA in the state. When the process for citizenship commences, the district authorities would start the verification process, they said.

Information relating to about 40,000 refugees has been provided to the state government, said a senior official in Lucknow, who did not wish to be named.

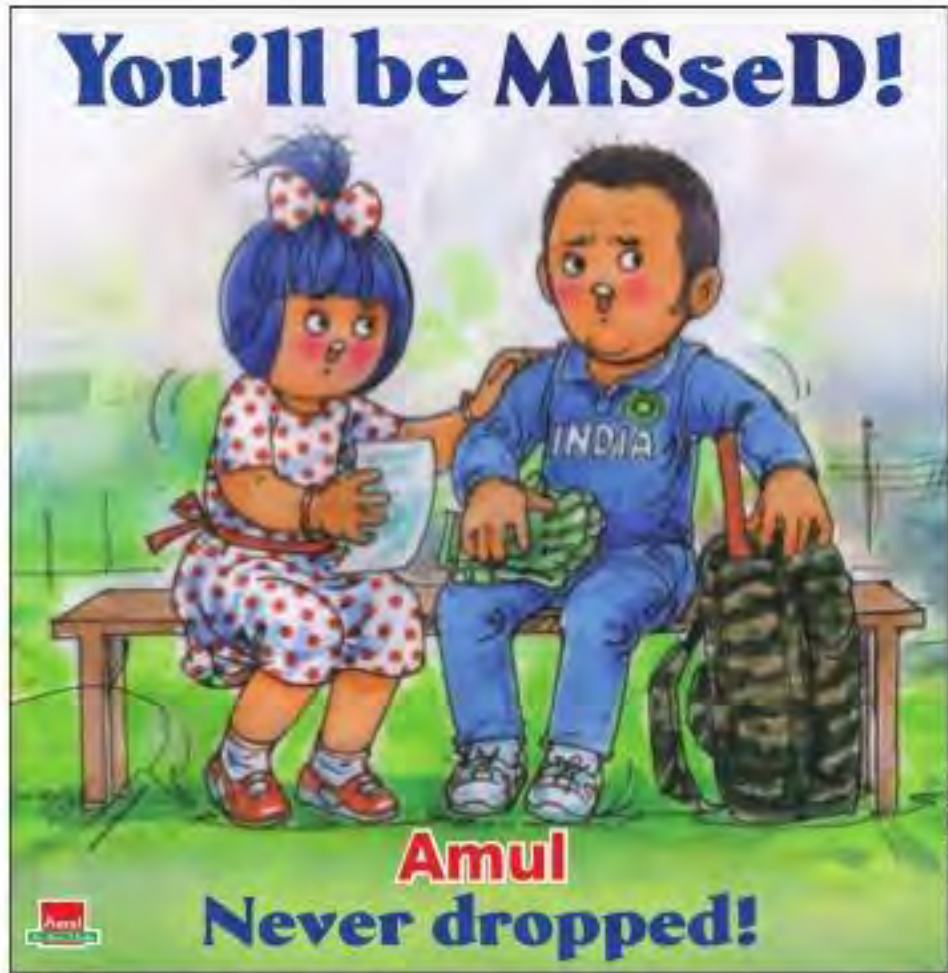
The district authorities have been asked to seek detailed information in a prescribed format from Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who

have entered India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan before December 31, 2014. They should have stayed in India for the last one year, and resided in the country for five of the last 14 years.

The authorities have been asked to provide names of such people, their father's name, current address and mobile number, date of arrival in India, the country they come from, and the details of the persecution faced by them.

"On government direction, we have started a preliminary survey to get an estimated number of refugees living in the district... This is not an actual identification process. We have so far found that around 95,000 refugees live in the district. Of this, around 58,000 have obtained their citizenship and the balance 37,000 continue to live here without citizenship. It was easier for us to identify them since they live in a particular area and their details were already with us. The survey is still on," said Pilibhit District Magistrate Vaibhav Srivastava.

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Foodgrain stocks hit record high, wheat area is largest ever

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

WHILE RETAIL food inflation soared to a six-year high of 14.12 percent in December last year posing a challenge amid slowdown in the economy, the government faces a challenge managing its surplus foodgrain stock which has reached a record high of 75.51 million metric tonnes as on January 1, 2020.

The stocks are likely to increase further.

For, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, as on January 16, 2020, wheat has been sown this rabi season in 330.20 lakh hectares — 33.23 lakh ha more than last year (296.98 lakh ha) and the highest ever since 1950-51, the year from which data is available. Earlier,

the highest area under wheat was recorded 314.70 ha during 2014-15.

"Higher area (under wheat) is reported from the states of Madhya Pradesh (19.07 lakh ha), Gujarat (5.61 lakh ha), Rajasthan (4.49 lakh ha), Maharashtra (3.86 lakh ha), West Bengal (0.74 lakh ha) Jharkhand (0.50 lakh ha), Karnataka (0.40 lakh ha) and Himachal Pradesh (0.40 lakh ha)", according to a Ministry report released Friday. Less area is reported from the states of Bihar (0.64 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (0.43 lakh ha), Jammu & Kashmir (0.31 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (0.20 lakh ha), Haryana (0.18 lakh ha) and Punjab (0.12 lakh ha).

The report shows that during current rabi season, the area under pulses has been reported as 157.33 lakh ha — 7.80 lakh ha

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AREA SOWN UNDER RABI CROPS 2019-20 (LAKH HECTARES)

	2018-19	2019-20	INCREASE
Wheat	296.98	330.2	33.23
Rice	18.11	21.41	3.3
Pulses	149.53	157.33	7.8
Coarse Cereals	46.86	53.19	6.33
Oilseeds	79.17	79.25	0.08
Total Crops	590.64	641.39	50.75

Source: All India Crop Situation - Rabi 2019-20 as on 16.01.2020

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

A BATTLE WORTH LOSING

By RAJAT KATHURIA
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WORLD



KHAMENEI CALLS TRUMP A CLOWN, REBUKES U.S. AS AN ARROGANT POWER

IN MYANMAR, XI VOWS NEW LEVEL OF BILATERAL TIES

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

A DAY after *The Indian Express* reported that 45 cases of sexual harassment were reported at 24 centres run by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) between 2010 and 2019, and that many cases have dragged on for years, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju Friday ordered that inquiries into all pending cases be "disposed within the next four weeks".

Stressing that there is "zero tolerance" for sexual harassment at SAI centres, Rijiju promised to make the system of addressing harassment cases "more robust".

"The inquiries that are underway will be speeded up. I have



The Indian Express report on January 16

directed that all pending cases will be disposed within the next four weeks. We will ensure that the already existing system of addressing sexual harassment cases and protecting our athletes, both boys and girls, is made more robust," Rijiju said in a statement released by SAI.

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Thackeray said.

"About 25 malls and eateries have shown willingness to keep establishments open 24x7. All of them have been asked to ensure fire safety compliance and security," said an official, who attended the meeting that included the municipal and police commissioners.

"We welcome this move as it will boost tourism and business in city. But we have suggested that this should be extended to standalone establishments, too, like those near railway stations. If police fear nuisance, the licence of violators can be cancelled," said Niranjan Shetty of the Association of Hotel And Restaurant owners (AHAR), an umbrella body.

A similar move was initiated

in 2017 by the previous BJP government but the plan was opposed by the police.

Following the government's latest move, BJP MLA Ashish Shelar tweeted that "peace, safety & security of Mumbaiers in residential areas is topmost priority". "Any bar/ pub/ mall/ eatery which is security threat for residential areas or puts burden on police will be opposed!" Shelar posted.

DCP Pranaya Ashok, spokesperson, Mumbai Police, said "issues related to security were discussed by senior officers with the government". A senior officer said that a majority of issues, like ensuring that these establishments are located in certain areas, excluding residential localities, was agreed upon.

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, JANUARY 17

THE CITY that never sleeps will now remain open all night.

Lighting up Mumbai's night-time economy, the government is moving to keep eateries and malls open 24x7 starting January 26. The move will be launched in pilot form across gated spaces and non-residential areas, which have their own CCTV surveillance and parking facilities, and where noise can be curtailed.

As of now, standalone establishments will not be part of the push, which will cover restau-



Restaurants in malls, non-residential areas can stay open. File

rants inside malls that do not serve alcohol. Food trucks will also be allowed to operate through the night at prominent locations like Nariman Point.

The final nod was given at a

meeting chaired Thursday by Tourism Minister Aaditya Thackeray, who is said to be the prime mover behind the proposal. "This plan will come into effect in non-residential areas,"