

# No need to fear CAA, NPR: Thackeray after PM meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, 21 February

No one needs to fear about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Population Register (NPR) is not going to throw anyone out of the country, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said on Friday, after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Shiv Sena chief said an atmosphere is being created in the country that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is "dangerous" for Muslims.

Talking to reporters after his meeting with Modi that lasted nearly an hour, Thackeray said he had a discussion on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Population Register (NPR) and the NRC.

"I have made my stand clear on all these issues. No one has to fear about CAA. I had said CAA is not a legislation to throw anyone out of the country," the Shiv Sena chief told reporters.

His son Aaditya Thackeray, also a minister in his cabinet, accompanied him during the meeting.

This was Uddhav



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son and State minister Aaditya Thackeray in New Delhi

PHOTO:PTI

Thackeray's first visit to the national capital after taking over as the chief minister of Maharashtra.

He later met Congress President Sonia Gandhi and veteran BJP leader L K Advani.

Thackeray's Shiv Sena was earlier a part of the BJP-led NDA, but formed the "Maha Vikas Aghadi" government in Maharashtra with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) after parting ways with the saffron party.

Thackeray also met Congress president Sonia Gandhi and held discussions on the current political situa-

tion and CAA-NPR-NRC.

Thackeray met Gandhi at her 10, Janpath residence and the meeting lasted around half-an-hour. This is the first meeting of Thackeray with Gandhi after the formation of the coalition government in Maharashtra.

Sources said the leaders are learnt to have discussed the functioning of the 'Maha-Agadi' government of Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP.

Thackeray's stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Population Register (NPR) has become a bone of contention among the allies in

Maharashtra, as the Congress and the NCP are opposed to the measures.

AICC general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra Mallikarjun Kharge and Shiv Sena leaders Aaditya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut were also present during the meeting.

The meeting came soon after Thackeray asserted that one does not have to fear the CAA and no one will be thrown out of the country due to NPR, soon after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Congress and the NCP, along with some other opposition parties, have been critical of the CAA-NPR-NRC, and the matter has created discord among the Maharashtra alliance partners.

Thackeray said the Centre has already made its stand clear in Parliament that NRC will not be implemented across the country.

Sources said the leaders discussed the functioning of the state government.

"Talking about NPR and Census...the census happens every 10 years and it is important that it takes place. I have assured all the citizens of my state that no one's right will be taken away," Thackeray said, adding "it's not so".

# Delhi to help Maharashtra with education reforms

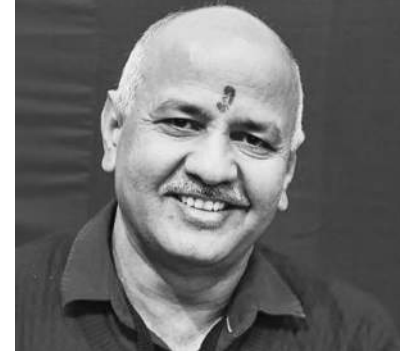
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
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Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said his government will provide all possible help to Maharashtra in implementing education reforms, describing it as cooperative federalism at its best.

Kejriwal's statement comes hours after Maharashtra Higher Education Minister Uday Samant met Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia here to discuss various initiatives taken under the AAP government's education model.

"Delhi government will provide all possible help to Maharashtra to implement education reforms in their state. This is cooperative federalism at its best. Both states can learn so much from each other," Kejriwal tweeted.

After meeting Sisodia, Samant said he also shared about the Maharashtra government's efforts to bring a positive



Sisodia said the Maharashtra government has started with some new programmes in the field of education

change in the state education model.

"I came here with a lot of curiosity to know more about Delhi's education model. It is so successful and I would like to take ideas from here and adopt in our education system," Samant was

quoted as saying in an official statement.

"I also shared about our efforts to bring a positive change in Maharashtra's education model. We should also think of a tie-up between the two states and pick good things from each other's education models," he said.

Sisodia, who is also the Education minister, said the Maharashtra government has started with some new programmes in the field of education and he would like to learn and adopt it in the city.

"We want to take the journey of bringing about a revolution in education ahead by adopting and implementing best learning programmes and practices for our children.

"That is why it's very important to collaborate with each other and learn from the individual experience of education departments of both the states," Sisodia said.

# Sedition slapped against woman for raising pro-Pak slogans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Bengaluru, 21 February

A young woman who raised pro-Pakistan slogans at an anti-CAA rally last evening has been booked for sedition and remanded to judicial custody, police said on Friday.

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said the woman had links with Naxals.

In a related development, security was provided at the home of the woman, Amulya Leona, in Chikkamagaluru district, after it was attacked, allegedly by right wing workers.

Officials said some people had targeted her home on Thursday evening and the window panes were damaged.

Amulya had raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans thrice after

the organisers, under the banner of "Save the Constitution", invited her to address the gathering in the presence of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, on Thursday.

After being removed from the stage, she was arrested on charges of sedition and produced before a magistrate's court, which remanded her to 14

days judicial custody.

Her father Wazi also called for action against her as per the law, saying she has made an "unforgivable mistake." On Friday, Yediyurappa said: "Importantly, the organisations that are behind people like Amulya and nurturing them, if we don't take action against such organisations, such things won't end."

# J&K signs over ₹2,100 cr MoUs in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Mumbai, 21 February

The newly formed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday inked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth over ₹2,100 crore during its investment summit roadshow in the city.

"We want to maximise industrial growth and employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. For this we are engaging in six city roadshows. Of this, we have already successfully concluded in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai," Jammu and Kashmir Principal Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring Rohit Kansal told reporters at an investor roadshow organised by CII.

"The roadshows will further cover cities like Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad in February and March," he said.

Led by Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu, the officials pitched about the business possibilities in Kashmir valley to India Inc.

Kansal said the union territory has signed around ₹2,000

crore worth of non-binding MoUs in Kolkata, ₹850 crore in Bengaluru and over ₹2,100 crore in Mumbai.

J&K has identified 14 sectors, including horticulture, food processing, manufacturing, infrastructure, media and entertainment, film and tourism, to attract investments, he added.

Kewal Kumar Sharma, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir said, "We are in the final stages of designing an ambitious Industrial Promotion Policy 2020 in J&K, which will have elements like SGST reimbursement in full, attractive land policy, exemption from stamp duty, support for green industrialisation along with other benefits."

When asked about the ground situation in the union territory, he said it is much better than what it was a few months back.

"We're talking about investments in the long term. You're not talking about today, given today's situation (is) much better than what it was, let's say, a few months back. So things are improving, I don't see this becoming a problem for any investment," he added.

# Yoga is science, not religion nor political activity: Naidu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Coimbatore, 21 February

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said yoga is not a religion or a political activity, but a science and should be practiced for the betterment of an individual.

"The world needs more happiness and that is exactly what Lord Shiva teaches us. Adiyogi is the one who first transmitted the yogic science to humanity," he said, speaking at the Mahashivarathi festival organised at Isha Yoga Centre, where the 112 feet tall statue of Adiyogi formed the background.

Adiyogi is an inspiration and representation of Yoga, which is not a belief, but a technology to transform oneself, the Vice-President said.

"Yoga is not a religion, it is a science. It is time we all now get back to Yoga. I am happy that Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi has taken the initiative to take Yoga to the United Nations. Now Yoga is catching up! Thanks to the initiative of the Prime Minister" he said.

# New terminal for storing agro products in Mumbai airport

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Mumbai airport, run by a joint venture between Airports Authority of India and GVK, on Friday announced the launch of an exclusive terminal for processing and storage of agro and pharma products.

Touted as the world's largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility, the 'Export Cold Zone' can hold over 700 tonnes of such cargo at one time with a combined annual capacity of 5.25 lakh tonnes, Mumbai International Airport (MIAL) said in a release.

The facility will be operated by cargo handling service provider and MIAL's business partner, Cargo Service Centre, it said.

Mumbai airport is the largest gateway for movement of pharma and agro products in the country, MIAL said, adding that the fully automated infrastructure caters to the rapidly growing demand for pharma and agri goods.

It connects to over 500 cargo destinations across 175 countries through 60 air-



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lines.

The export cold zone is equipped with 12 truck docks with dock levellers, spacious acceptance and examination area, automated workstations, X-Ray machines, unit load device (ULD) storage, ballmat system for ULD transfer and cold rooms, the release said.

Spread over an operational area of 6,000 square metres, the facility is equipped with 10 ULD build-up workstations and as many as 172 ULD storage positions.

The pharma terminal itself can hold 140 ULD positions, while the agro terminal can hold 32 ULD positions, it said.

Mumbai airport is the first airport in the country and the third in Asia to obtain "IATA CEIV Pharma" accreditation, a global industry recognition supporting the air transport industry, and is in full compliance with pharmaceutical manufacturers requirements, it said.

MIAL aims to cement Mumbai airport's foothold further in air freight supply chain capitalizing on all the business opportunities, it said, adding that the airport operator is creating a comprehensive digital and temperature corridor between Mumbai and CEIV certified airports powered by its air cargo community portal.