

View from the margins: After CAA rules, Mumbai Muslims rush to get their identity documents in order

Voting is often the only chance that many of India's marginalised groups get to express themselves. As national elections approach, Scroll's reporters fanned out across the country to talk to groups with little socio-political power as part of a series called the View from the Margins. The aim: try to understand how the powerless and the voiceless have fared under a decade of the Modi government. It was nearly 11 pm when Sajeed Sheikh walked into the community centre he runs in the suburb of Jogeshwari in northwestern Mumbai, but the room was bustling with activity. Sheikh, with the help of volunteers, began arranging for foodgrain to be distributed among poor families in the neighbourhood during Ramzan, a month of prayer, charity and fasting. Instructions about the logistics flew thick and fast, but so did anxious questions - about the Citizenship Amendment Act, the contentious law that had been implemented just two days earlier. Queries ranged from the practical to the conceptual. Will all of India be made to apply for inclusion in the National Register of Citizens? What documents could be needed for it? Was the Citizenship Amendment Act in keeping with India's commitment to secularism? With the Lok Sabha elections around the corner, and given the distinct possibility that the Bharatiya Janata Party may return to power, the volunteers in Jogeshwari are not the only ones who fear that the Act, in conjunction with a nationwide National Register of Citizens, could be used to harass and disenfranchise Muslims. There are many. The National Register of Citizens is meant to be a record of all bona fide Indian citizens, which could be used to identify and deport undocumented immigrants. The Citizenship Amendment Act provides a fast track to naturalisation to refugees from six religious communities - except Muslims - who fled Bangladesh, Afghanistan or Pakistan. When the National Register of Citizens was updated in Assam a few years ago, it had unleashed a Kafkaesque nightmare. Around 3.2 crore people had to provide identity documents to prove that their roots were firmly in

the state. Over 19 lakh people who ostensibly could not do so were left out of the register. Many of them struggled to find jobs. Hundreds were packed off to detention camps after being declared foreigners. It is possible that the nightmare may be repeated across India. In the past, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has explicitly linked the Citizenship Amendment Act with the National Register of Citizens and laid out the design behind the two. "First the CAB [Citizenship Amendment Bill] will come," he pronounced. "All refugees will get citizenship. Then [the] NRC [National Register of Citizens] will come. This is why refugees should not worry, but infiltrators should. Understand the chronology." Document correction Given this backdrop, Sheikh - a real estate agent by profession - has for the last six months been helping people from his neighborhood ensure that their identity documents are free from discrepancies. "If the government implements a nationwide National Register of Citizens exercise, it is the poor who will suffer the most," he said. "We want to be prepared for any eventuality." Sheikh's volunteer group, the Modern Youth Association, has partnered with several local mosques to spread the word about the assistance it is offering. He says he plans to next set up a centre where people can get help. "I needed to get the spelling of my name corrected on my Aadhaar and PAN [Permanent Account Number] cards," said Qureshi, a Jogeshwari resident who wanted to be identified only by her last name. "Earlier this month, I contacted Sajeed. He guided me on collecting supporting documents, and then got the changes done online." An hour away from Jogeshwari, in the Nagpada area of South Mumbai, lawyer Nadeem Siddiqui is providing neighbours the same assistance as Sheikh: rectifying identity documents before the possible implementation of a nationwide National Register of Citizens. "People may not actually be forced out of the country [through the National Register of Citizens], but they may still face harassment in the form of them being made to run around for documents,"

Siddiqui said. Getting rid of errors in official paperwork is a way to avoid such a scenario."

Anti-CAA protests

For Sheikh, the Citizenship Amendment Act is part of a larger design to disempower Indian Muslims. "The government's intention is to marginalise Muslims by whichever means possible, whether by implementing the National Register of Citizens or by arresting them in false cases," he said. Many human rights organisations feel the same way as Sheikh. In the past 10 years, since the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in Delhi, they say, Muslims have been singled out for persecution. Under Narendra Modi, the community has faced mob violence, discriminatory laws, vilification on the streets, demonisation on TV screens, and trumped-up cases. The Citizenship Amendment Act, if combined with the National Register of Citizens, may be the final straw. The Union government pushed the Citizenship Amendment Act through the Parliament in 2019, facilitating naturalisation of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Jains who escaped to India from religious persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan before December 31, 2014. The law met with nationwide pushback, with critics calling it a dilution of the nation's secular identity - never before had there been a religious test for citizenship in the history of independent India. Protests erupted everywhere. In 2019 and 2020, Sheikh and many from his neighbourhood had participated in those protests. They agitated in Jogeshwari, at the August Kranti Maidan in Tardeo, and for one night even went to Shaheen Bagh in Delhi, where hundreds of Muslim women were holding a sit-in protest. "Normally, protests erupt in a spurt of anger and then dissipate," he said. "The police know that. But women are not so easily swayed by emotion. In Shaheen Bagh, women led protests with hosh [awareness] rather than josh [passion]. Whiplashed by the pushback, the Union government argued that the Citizenship Amendment Act does not discriminate against Muslims - it is instead a helping hand for

the persecuted minorities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. But that does not explain why the Muslim communities persecuted in these countries - the Ahmadis in Pakistan and the Hazaras in Afghanistan - have been left out. Or why the law does not include Myanmar and Sri Lanka, where the Rohingyas and Tamils respectively face persecution. Despite the criticisms, on March 11 of this year, the Union government went ahead with the law, notifying the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024, which would enable the law's implementation. "If persecuted Hindus want to come to India, they are welcome," Sheikh said. "All that Muslims are saying is, don't snatch our homes in the process. If you try to do that, we will certainly raise our voices."

Battling prejudice

Sheikh accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in Delhi of sowing distrust and fear in people's minds. "The new generation has not seen the kind of destruction that riots cause, and so, they don't understand right from wrong," he said. "They hold all kinds of hateful views about Muslims." Sheikh's job as a real estate agent gives him a vivid view of the deepening prejudices against his community. "My work involves finding properties for people in areas such as Andheri and Lokhandwala," he said. "Many times, clients discuss all the details of a property with me on the phone. But as soon as they learn I am Muslim, their approach towards me changes and they cut me off completely." With the 2024 Lok Sabha elections approaching, 52-year-old Sheikh has a word of advice for the Bharatiya Janata Party. "I want to say to the government: if you want to make this country a sone ki chidiya - a beacon of prosperity - Muslims will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you. But instead, you are doubting our loyalty." He added: "Muslims have given sacrifices for this country against the British colonial rule, just as Hindus have. But today, our sacrifices are being disregarded, and we are facing hostility and discrimination." Sheikh added: "If the government's intentions on the National Register



WORLD YOUTH SKILL DAY WAS CELEBRATED SUCCESSFULLY



Royal Journalism (Bapatla) July 15 : World Youth Skills Day was organized at Bapatla Engineering College under the auspices of NSS Units and Institu-

tions Innovation Council. On this occasion, College Principal Dr. Sheikh Nazir said that every year on July 15, World Youth Skills Day is celebrated worldwide and technical vocational education and training institutes, public and private sectors are celebrating this day as an opportunity to know the importance of equipping youth with skills for employment and entrepreneurship. This year's theme was the key role that youth play in building peace and resolving conflict. IIC Convener of the College Dr. CH. Lakshmi Srinivas said that the need of start-up companies

and the required skills, the schemes offered by the state and central governments and the training were given to the students in detail. College Dean Student Affairs Professor D. Niranjan Babu said that developing the skills required for employment generation will help the youth to become more competitive in the job market, increase their chances of getting meaningful employment and help them achieve success. A skilled and educated youth population will contribute to economic innovation, productivity and development, he said. IIC Members Lenin Babu, Ganapathy Prasad and

NSS Officers K Rajendra, Y Sruthi, faculty and students participated in this program and celebrated it.



Brokerage Call: 2 Adani Group Stocks To Buy Next Week For Potential Upside of Up To 50%

The two Adani Group companies that have got buy calls from top Indian brokerages are Adani Green Energy and ACC Ltd. While ICICI Direct Research has set a target price of Rs 3225 for ACC in 12 months, Ventura Securities has set a target price of Rs 2,830 for Adani Green Energy in 24 months.

Adani Green Energy Share Price Target "Post Hindenburg controversy, Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) experienced a significant decline of approximately 77% in its stock price. However, the stock has since rebounded strongly, gaining 288% and reaching a CMP of INR 1,890 per share. Taking advantage of the steep decline, marquee investors like GQG and IHC have shown confidence in the company by increasing their stakes. Promoters are reinforcing their commitment by injecting INR 9,350 crore through the issuance of warrants, with INR 2,338 crore already infused at INR 1,481 per share," said Ventura Securities in a report on 4th April. "Moreover, TotalEnergies has strengthened its strategic partnership with AGEL by investing USD 300 million in an AGEL subsidiary, acquiring a 50% stake in the projects. Our discussions with management indicate the company's core growth plans remain largely intact, although there may have been some minor delays. AGEL's strength lies in its robust business model, characterized by long-term PPAs with a 25-year fixed term. These agreements ensure a predictable cash flow stream, mitigating



external factors," the brokerage further added. "With 2,848 MW of renewable capacity being added in FY24, the total operational renewable generation capacity has increased to 10,934 MW (largest in India). Looking ahead, AGEL's ambitious plans to further scale up its capacity to 20 GW by FY26 and an even more substantial 45 GW (out of which Khavda will contribute 30GW) by 2030 demonstrate their confidence in capturing a significant share of the renewable energy market. This signifies a projected CAGR of 28% in AGEL's capacity expansion over FY23-FY30," Ventura Securities in a note. "We expect revenues to grow at a CAGR of 26.5% INR 1,9950 cr, EBITDA is expected to grow at CAGR 38.9% to INR 1,8358 cr with 92% margins (+2870 bps) by FY27, while net earnings are expected to grow from INR to INR 4,262 cr (CAGR of 44.8%) with 17.8% margins (+610bps). We initiate coverage on AGEL with a BUY for a price target of 2830(69.9x FY27 P/E) representing an upside of 49.7% from the CMP of INR 1890 over the next 24 months. While the current valuations may seem demanding, the high growth earnings trajectory should ensure that the valuations sustain. Key risks to our thesis:- Sharp slowdown in the global economy," the brokerage stated.

ACC Share Price Target

"As of Dec-2023, company's cement capacity stands at 38.6 mtpa after the recent expansion at Amethi (1 mtpa cement grinding) and acquisition of balance 55% (1.54 mtpa) in Asian Concretes. Further, with expansion of 4 mtpa (1.6 mtpa at Sindri, Jharkhand, 2.4 mtpa at Salai Banwa, UP), company's capacity to reach 42.6 mtpa by FY26E. We believe that, company's volumes to grow at ~10% CAGR over FY23-26E to 40.8 mtpa by FY26E, led by ramp-up of recent capacity additions, upcoming expansions and pick-up in demand along with synergy benefits from parent company's units. Moreover, commencement of 3.3 mtpa clinker at Amethi would further help in cement production growth," said ICICI Direct Research in a note on 4th April. "We expect ACC to benefit substantially in terms of margins expansion, led by focus on operational efficiencies led by increasing waste heat recovery power share to 25% by FY25E from 9% at present, benign fuel prices and positive operating leverage (led by healthy volume growth). We also believe that, the potential synergy benefits from parent's other units (master supply agreement) & businesses (ports & logistics) would further help in improving its efficiencies in terms of raw material, power & fuel and freight cost. Moreover, we believe

that company's cement realisation would also rise in the coming periods led by pick-up in demand, increasing industry consolidation and increasing share of premium products. Thus, going ahead, we estimate EBITDA/ton to improve to Rs 950/ton by FY26E (from Rs 498/ton in FY23 and Rs 840/ton in 9MFY24)," ICICI Direct said. "We believe that ACC is strongly positioned led by strong parentage, focus on operational efficiencies, healthy volume growth & strong balance sheet with net-cash position. We expect revenue to grow at ~9% CAGR over FY23-26E to Rs 22,879 crore in FY26E. However, EBITDA & PAT are expected to grow at ~44% & ~73% CAGR over the same period to Rs 3880 crore & Rs 2446 crore respectively in FY26E, led by considerable margin expansion. Valuation at 11.2x EV/EBITDA on FY26E basis (EV/ton of \$123/ton) looks attractive considering the multiple tailwinds. We recommend BUY on ACC with target price of Rs 3225 per share (based on 14x FY26E EV/EBITDA)," ICICI Direct Research stated.

Disclaimer

The recommendations made above are by market analysts and are not advised by either the author, nor Greynium Information Technologies. The author, nor the brokerage firm nor Greynium would be liable for any losses caused as a result of decisions based on this write-up. Goodreturns.in advises users to consult with certified experts before making any investment decision.

India, Pakistan attempted to 'interfere' in Canada's polls, alleges Canadian spy agency

The Canadian spy agency has alleged that India and Pakistan had tried to "interfere" in Canada's federal elections in the 2019 and 2021 general elections, reported a media report on Friday. An unclassified summary by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) alleging the interference was tabled as part of the Federal Commission of Inquiry examining possible meddling by China, India, Russia and others in the 2019 and 2021 elections. The Indian government has strongly rejected as "baseless" allegations of its interference in Canadian elections and asserted that the core issue has been Ottawa's meddling in New Delhi's internal affairs. "We have seen media reports about the Canadian commission en-

quiring into ... We strongly reject all such baseless allegations of Indian interference in Canadian elections," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in New Delhi in February. During a press briefing in February, Jaiswal said, "We have seen media reports about the Canadian commission enquiring into ... We strongly reject all such baseless allegations of Indian interference in Canadian elections." "It is not the government of India's policy to interfere in the democratic processes of other countries. In fact, quite on the reverse, it is Canada which has been interfering in our internal affairs," he added.

What did the CSIS report say?
A document by the Canadian Se-



curity Intelligence Service that the Federal Commission of Inquiry is examining the possible interference of foreign nations like India, Pakistan, China and Russia in the country's elections in 2019 and 2021. In 2021,

the government of India had "intent to interfere and likely conducted clandestine activities," including using an Indian government proxy agent in Canada, the CSIS alleged in the documents. The Canadian spy agency further alleged that the Indian government in 2021 ran foreign interference activities that "were centred on a small number of electoral districts." The Indian government targeted those ridings because there was a perception by India that "a portion of Indo-Canadian voters were sympathetic to the Khalistani movement or pro-Pakistan political stances," the CSIS document said. The CSIS has amassed "a body of intelligence" that indicates a government of India "proxy agent may have

