

Bengaluru-Chennai express highway to become operational by this year-end, says Nitin Gadkari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: The Bengaluru-Chennai express highway will be launched by this year-end or January 2024 and it will prove crucial in reducing the travel time between the two metros to just two hours, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday.

Also, with the massive infrastructure being built across the country, Chennai will soon be connected with Delhi through the access-controlled highway project, he said.

"I reviewed the progress of National Highways projects in Chennai today. The Bengaluru-Chennai express highway will start by this year-end or January 2024. So, you can launch luxury buses and sleeper coaches in this sector," the minister said, addressing the 75th anniversary celebrations of Ashok Leyland here.

Gadkari, who earlier launched the Ashok Leyland's



LeV series, India's first electric commercial vehicles in its category, said there's a great requirement for electric buses in the country. "We are making good roads. We are connecting Delhi to Chennai via Surat, Nasik, Ahmednagar, Kurnool, Chennai (and beyond to), K a n y a k u m a r i , Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi (and also to) Bengaluru and Hyderabad, through the access-controlled highways project," he said.

His ministry is in the process of building an electric cable highway between the national capital and Jaipur; he

said and urged Ashok Leyland and other players to produce vehicles that could use bio fuels or alternative energy, such as e-vehicles, in a big way and help the Centre achieve the goal of a five-trillion-dollar economy.

"I am working on diversification of agriculture to energy and power sector since 2004. Ten days ago, I launched a 100 percent bio-ethanol vehicle. In Bengaluru I had launched Ashok Leyland's vehicle which can run on methanol-blended fuel. My dream is to ensure the production of methanol trucks in India," Gadkari said.

The Indian Oil Corporation is producing bio-ethanol-based fuel for automobiles and ethanol aviation fuel too. "Soon, the farmers of Tamil Nadu could help produce ethanol fuel from food grains," the minister said.

Later, speaking to reporters, he said he was satisfied over the pace of NH projects and

that the work on the Chennai Port-Maduravoyal Elevated Expressway project would begin soon.

The LeV series launched by the minister are India's first electric commercial vehicles in its category and aims to provide efficient and eco-friendly solutions for last-minute transportation needs.

The LeV, produced by Ashok Leyland's EV arm Switch Mobility, presents an attractive value proposition for MSMEs, cottage industries, and e-commerce in the country with low total cost of ownership coupled with a commitment to high uptime. This is India's first fuel cell bus. Also, Ashok Leyland unveiled a new 9m hydrogen fuel cell bus, the country's first hydrogen internal combustion engine truck, on the occasion.

"As we celebrate this milestone (of 75 years)...we renew our pledge to further shape the future of the CV (commercial vehicle) industry," Ashok

Leyland's chairman Dheeraj Hinduja said, adding, "We have set our sights on pioneering sustainable transportation solutions and aim to support India's economic development for years to come."

Chief Executive Officer of Switch Mobility Mahesh Babu said the launch of the Switch LeV series electric vehicles is a defining moment for the EV arm, having established a strong reputation in the e-bus market. At the event, Nitin Gadkari said hydrogen as an alternative fuel was the future. "The import of fossil fuel is a big problem for the country in terms of economy and pollution. So, it is imperative to explore and utilise bio fuels for sustenance, and reduce the logistics cost to single digit in about three to four years, from about 16 per cent at present," he said.

Further, this would make India competitive and a global player in exports, Gadkari added.

35 CBI officers receive police medals from Union minister Jitendra Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Tarun Gauba, the CBI officer who initially probed a corruption case against the agency's former special director Rakesh Asthana, and the officer who supervised cases of post-poll violence in West Bengal were among the 35 serving and retired CBI officers who received police medals from Union minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday.

The Union minister of state for personnel, public grievances and pensions gave away the medals at an investiture ceremony at the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) headquarters here on the occasion of first "International Day of Police Cooperation".

Former assistant sub-inspector G Satyanarayana (now retired) received the president's police medal for

distinguished service.

DIGs Tarun Gauba, who probed the case against Asthana in which the former special director was given a clean chit by a special court, and Akhilesh Kumar Singh, who supervised the post-poll violence cases in West Bengal, were conferred police medals for meritorious service. Both officers have been repatriated to their parent cadres.

Other officers awarded the police medal for meritorious service include Senior Superintendent of Police Manish Viresh Surti, superintendents of police Prasanna Kumar Panigrahi, Prahlad Kishore Jha and Binay Kumar and additional superintendents of police Barun Kumar Sarkar, Richhpal Singh, Rama Raman Tripathi, Devraj Vakkada, Ravinder Kush and Arvind Kumar Upadhyay, the CBI said in

a statement.

Deputy superintendents of police Mukesh Verma, Rajender Singh Gosain, Harjeet Singh Sachan, Sanjay Kumar Gautam, Vikash Kumar Pathak and Alok Kumar Shahi, inspectors Amit Kumar and Rakesh Ranjan and S u b - I n s p e c t o r Dharminder Singh were also given the medals for meritorious service.

Other recipients of the coveted medals included head constables Bhaiya Ranjay Kumar Singh, Manbeer Singh Patwal, Kuntal Chattopadhyay, Chander Pal, Loganathan Rengasamy, K V Jagannath Reddy, Harbhan Singh, Mahesh Madhavrao Gajarwar, constables R Jaisankar and Kaushliya Devi, Additional Legal Advisor Subramanyam Devdaran and office superintendents Aruna Mohan and Om Prakash Naithani.

Modi scheduled to hold talks with Biden today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden are set to hold bilateral talks on Friday evening with a focus on further solidifying the India-US comprehensive global and strategic partnership.

The two leaders are expected to review ongoing bilateral cooperation in areas of clean energy, trade, high-technology, defence and how the two countries can contribute in dealing with some of the pressing challenges facing the world.

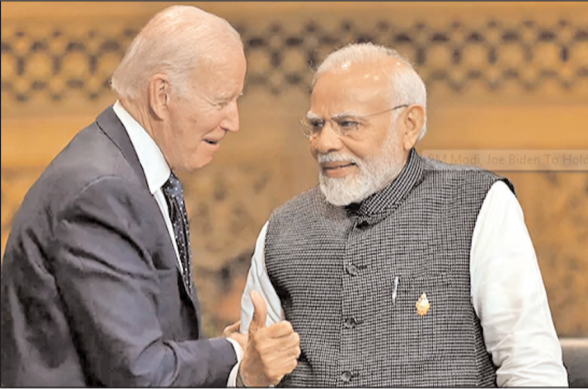
Modi is also likely to hold separate bilateral meetings on Friday with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth.

The US President is visiting New Delhi to attend the G20 summit that is being held on September 9 and 10. It will be his first visit to India as the US President.

The last US President to visit India was Donald Trump in February 2020.

Biden is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on Friday evening and he will leave for Vietnam on Sunday afternoon at the end of the G20 summit.

The focus of the talks between PM Modi and President Biden is likely to be on reviewing the ongoing bilateral cooperation in various key areas including clean



energy, defence and high-technology, said a source.

The two sides may also deliberate on having a more liberal visa regime.

Prime Minister Modi and President Biden had touched upon possible cooperation in developing next generation small modular reactor technologies in a collaborative mode in their talks in Washington in June and it is expected that the issue may figure at the meeting on Friday.

Ahead of Biden's visit, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the US commends Modi's leadership of the G20.

"We commend Prime Minister Modi for his leadership of the G20 this year and we are committed to helping ensure that India has a successful G20 host as they host (the summit) this year," she said.

"So, that's going to continue

to be our commitment. During Prime Minister Modi's visit here in June, the President (Biden) and the prime minister shared their determination to deliver on shared priorities at the summit," she said in response to a question. Jean-Pierre said the President is "very much looking forward to continuing that work with the Prime Minister and other leaders later this week as we head out tomorrow."

The G20 member countries represent around 85 percent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

CJI meets Singapore counterpart, witnesses signing of MoU between SCs of two nations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India and Singapore Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding on judicial cooperation in the island city-state.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and his Singapore counterpart Sundaresh Menon witnessed the signing of the MoU between the supreme courts of two the nations.

The CJI is on an official visit to Singapore, an apex court official said.

The two chief justices witnessed the signing of the MoU between the "Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of Singapore in the field of judicial cooperation," the official said.

Earlier, Justice Menon had visited India and even sat on the Supreme Court of India bench on February 3.

Justice Menon, who has been serving as the fourth chief justice of Singapore since 2012, had attended a function to mark the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court.

Justice Menon was the chief guest at the function.

Prez Murmu to inaugurate conference of national human rights institutions on Sept 20

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate on September 20 the biennial conference of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) of Asia Pacific which will be hosted here, officials said on Thursday.

It is being organised at Vigyan Bhawan by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) from September 20-21.

The APF will also hold its 28th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 20 to discuss the issues of common interest to member countries. In the conference, more than 1,300 delegates from India and abroad are likely to participate, the NHRC said in a statement.

The conference will be attended by heads, members and senior officials of the NHRIs of 23 countries and five observer countries along with representatives from the Union and state governments, state human rights commissions, special rapporteurs,

monitors, various institutions involved in the protection and promotion of human rights in the country, members of civil society and NGOs, human right defenders, lawyers, jurists, academicians, diplomats, representatives of UN agencies, and academic institutions, among others.

Earlier, in 2002 and 2014, such an AGM of Asia Pacific Forum and conference was held in India.

On September 21, the biennial conference will mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UNDHR). It will also celebrate 30 years of national human rights institutions and the Paris Principles, with a sub-theme on the environment and climate change, the statement added.

During the conference, three plenary sessions on the themes 'Setting the Scene 30 Years of Promoting and Protecting Human Rights across Asia and the Pacific'; 'Advancing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its Promise of Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All'; and 'The

role of NHRIs in responding to and mitigating the human rights impacts of climate change-national, regional, and international actions', will be held.

The biennial conference also aims to provide an opportunity for sharing good practices to support communities to respond to human rights impacted by climate change.

A separate session on 'Business and Human Rights' will also be held in partnership with UNDP, which will be attended by the representatives of business and industry, workers organisations and associations, various ministries, departments, statutory organisations, UN agencies, human rights defenders, NGOs, etc. In this session, issues related with the human rights of workers in various businesses and professions will be discussed, the officials said.

The Asia Pacific Forum was founded in 1996 with the support of five NHRIs, including the NHRC, India, to promote the establishment of independent NHRIs

in the Asia Pacific region and to support them in their work to promote and protect human rights as effectively as possible. From five founding members, the APF membership has expanded to 26 NHRIs, the statement said.

The APF is one of the four regional NHRI networks, including Africa, NANHRI; Americas, RINDHCA; and Europe, ENNHRI, part of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

The NHRC, India, has been a valued partner of the APF as an independent and autonomous 'A' status NHRI, fully compliant with the Paris Principles. The year also marks 30 years of the existence of NHRC.

The NHRC, during its journey of 30 years, disposed of more than 22 lakh cases and payment of more than Rs 1 billion to the victims of human rights violations on its recommendations indicates the respect given by various government institutions and agencies to the decisions of the Commission, the statement added.

DU extends last date to file nominations for students' union elections to September 14

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi University has extended the last date to file nomination papers for the students' union elections by two days, it said in a circular.

The last date to file nomination papers has been extended to September 14 from the earlier deadline of September 12, it said.

The last date to withdraw nominations and the publication of the final list of candidates is September 15.

The Delhi University Students' Union will go to the polls on September 22, after a gap of four years. The elections were last held in 2019.

The students' union elections could not be held in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 while possible disruptions to the academic calendar prevented their conduct in 2022.

India, ASEAN agree to deepen comprehensive strategic partnership with concrete actions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAKARTA: India and 10-nation ASEAN on Thursday agreed to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership with concrete actions through practical implementation of the 'Plan of Action' to implement the ASEAN-India partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity.

In a joint statement on maritime cooperation, it was agreed to support India's connectivity initiatives in the region to ensure seamless connectivity in the Indo-Pacific, besides boosting cooperation

in a range of areas including blue economy, space and food security among others.

The two sides agreed to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership with concrete actions through practical implementation of the 'Plan of Action' to implement the ASEAN-India partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity, said the statement.

They reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and over-

flight in the region, and other lawful uses of the seas and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce and to promote peaceful resolutions of disputes, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the state-ment said.

"We support the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and look forward to an early con-

clusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS," it said.

The reference is significant in the backdrop of China's increasing military assertiveness in the South China Sea and its ongoing maritime territorial dispute with the Philippines.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation on maritime safety and security, promote cooperation in a Blue

Economy and develop new and renewable energy including marine-based renewable energy, among others.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a sectoral partnership in 1992. This graduated to a full dialogue partnership

in December 1995 and a summit-level partnership in 2002. The ties were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2012.

The 10 member countries of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

The ties between India and ASEAN have been on a significant upswing in the last few years with the focus being on boosting cooperation in the areas of trade and investment as well as security and defence.

| COURT OF ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL JUDGE (FAMILY COURT), JAMMU. | |
|--|------------------|
| FILE NO. 5953/2022 | |
| DATE OF INSTP: 12.07.2022. | |
| Present: Pardeep Kumar Sandhu | |
| Joginder Paul age 63 years S/o Late Sh. Saran Dass R/o Kacha Talab Bahu Fort, Jammu. |Petitioner |
| Vs | |
| 1. Smt Sheela Kumari W/o Sh. Shakti Kumar R/o Kacha Talab, Bahu Fort, Jammu |Respondents |
| 2. General Public | |
| In the matter of :- | |
| Petition under Section 7 of the Guardians and Wards Act 1890 for appointment of the petitioner as legal guardian of minors (Supriya Kumari, Dhanika Kumari, Master Krishna Kumar and Master Yug Kumar alias Lakhan (male children)). | |
| NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE | |
| Whereas the petitioner has presented the petition under section 7 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 for appointment of the petitioner as legal guardian of the minors, Supriya Kumari, Dhanika Kumari (female children) Master Krishna Kumar and Master Yug Kumar alias Lakhan (male children). | |
| Through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is hereby informed that if any, body having any objection with regard to the petition of the petitioner, he/she/they may appear in this court on 15.09.2023 either in person or through Advocate and file objections, if any, failing which the matter shall be heard and decided under law. In case of holiday on the above said date, the matter shall be taken up on the next working day. | |
| Given under my hand and seal of this court today on 23rd of August, 2023. | |
| Sd/- | |
| (Padeep K. Sandhu) | |
| Addl. Principal Judge, (Family Court), Jammu | |