

India to wear grand necklace of Industrial Smart Cities on backbone of Golden Quadrilateral



NEW DELHI : India will soon wear a grand necklace of Industrial Smart Cities as in a landmark decision on Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore.

This move is set to transform the industrial landscape of the country, creating a robust network of industrial nodes and cities that will significantly boost economic growth and global competitiveness.

Spanning across 10 states and strategically planned along six major corridors, these projects represent a significant leap forward in India's quest to enhance its manufacturing capabilities and economic growth. These industrial areas will be located in Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in UP, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Koppurthy in Andhra Pradesh and Jodhpur-Pall in Rajasthan.

NICDP is designed to foster a vibrant industrial ecosystem by facilitating investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These industrial nodes will act as catalysts for achieving USD 2 trillion in exports by 2030, reflecting the government's vision of a self-reliant and globally competitive India.

The new industrial cities will be developed as green-field smart cities of global standards, built "ahead of demand" on the 'plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' concepts. This approach ensures that the cities are equipped with advanced infrastructure that supports sustainable and efficient industrial operations.

Aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the projects will feature multi-modal connectivity infrastructure, ensuring seamless movement of people, goods, and services. The industrial cities are envisioned to be growth centres for transformation of whole

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's security elevated to ASL level, on par with Amit Shah

NEW DELHI : The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has strengthened RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's security by upping his existing 'Z+' armed protection to the more robust Advanced Security Liaison (ASL) protocol.

This upgrade involves augmenting the security measures currently provided by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel.

The ASL status brings Bhagwat's security level on par with that of Home Minister Amit Shah.

Officials told ANI that the new directions were issued on August 16 considering fresh threat analysis report submitted to the MHA by the Intelligence Bureau.

They said that the ASL protocol was previously required only during Bhagwat's visits to certain sensitive locations.

Bhagwat is among 10 persons who have 'Z+' armed security cover by CISF personnel. Currently, a total of 200 protectees are being covered by the CISF personnel.

The security enhancement for the RSS chief comes in response to recent assessments revealing vulnerabilities, especially in states led by non-BJP parties. The report highlights threats from various organizations, including radical Islamist groups, and cites intelligence inputs about Bhagwat's increased risk. This prompted the MHA to classify Bhagwat as an "ASL protectee," necessitating enhanced security measures.

All states and Union Territories have been informed of the security upgrade. Under the ASL protocol, local agencies, including district administrations, police, health departments, and others, are required to collaborate to ensure the protectee's security and safety.

Furthermore, helicopter travel for the protectee is restricted to specially designed aircraft and must comply with detailed protocols. The ASL protocol also mandates thorough anti-sabotage inspections and implements multi-layered security rings to ensure comprehensive protection.

Union Home, Health Secys chair high-level meet to enhance safety of healthcare professionals

NEW DELHI : In response to the Supreme Court's August 22 order, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra co-chaired a virtual meeting in Delhi involving the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police (DGPs) from various states to implement essential safety measures for doctors and healthcare professionals.

The discussions focused on ensuring that State Governments and Union Territories (UT) take immediate actions to address safety concerns at healthcare workplaces pending receipt of the report of the National Task Force (NTF) to address the concerns of the doctors over their safety at their workplaces.

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with senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in today's meeting.

In today's meeting, the officers of state governments and UTs including Chief Secretaries and DGPs apprised of the steps taken by respective governments to enhance security and provide

a safer working environment for healthcare workers across public and private hospitals, medical colleges and other healthcare institutions.

Interacting with the states, Govind Mohan requested the officers to ensure the installation of

CCTV cameras in blind spots, integration with 112 helplines for health care workers, access control of large hospitals, and sharing of the revamped position under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Union Health Secretary encouraged the states to

come up with innovative ideas and emphasised some of the immediate measures that can be considered to enhance security and provide a safer working environment for healthcare workers such as joint security audit along with district collector and DSP, and management of District Hospitals (HDHs) and Medical Colleges (MCs) to review any shortfall in existing infrastructure and security arrangements, and to take up remedial measures. Besides, he suggested ensuring security checks of all hired security and other services staff to be done regularly. He stressed the need for a control room, especially in large DHs and MCs, with a duty roster of staff that regularly monitors CCTV and securely stores the data; and that distress call to be attended to by control rooms.

Mock drills for security to be conducted regularly like safety drills for fire, and training of hired security personnel to upgrade their

capacity; in many establishments, they are observed to be found wanting in discharging their duties due to poor capacities; patient facilitators, trolley men and MTS in large hospitals to ferry patients on wheelchairs and stretchers is required, to reduce the number of patient attendants and lessen the load and stress on security and other healthcare professionals were among other suggestions.

Capacity building and training of doctors and other healthcare workers in bereavement protocols, especially in emergency and casualty wards; security and safety committee to be institutionalized and involve senior or junior residents and students for continuous monitoring of the situation and status of emergency response preparedness; and routine security patrolling in all the hospital and medical college premises during night time were key suggestions of the health secretary.

Shiromani Committee sends legal notice Kangana Ranaut, demands ban on film 'Emergency'

CHANDIGARH : The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has sent a legal notice to actor turned politician Kangana Ranaut and the producers of the film 'Emergency', alleging misrepresentation of the history of Sikhs in the film. The film, set to release on September 6, in which Kangana Ranaut portrays the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has drawn ire from the Sikh community for its alleged negative portrayal of Sikhs.

Spokesperson SGPC Gurcharan Singh Grewal said, "Kangana Ranaut, who is known for creating new controversies in the midst of controversies, today she arrived in the parliament and the BJP has shrugged off her statements. A notice was sent today to Kangana Ranaut and the people who released that film. The trailer that came, which was seen by the people, should be removed from all platforms and an apology should be sought for

this."He further said that a notice was sent by the secretary of the Shiromani Committee, Iman Pratap Singh. "That is why we are making this appeal to the government that this film is creating a wrong portrayal of the personalities associated with the spirit of Sikhs," he

said.He further said that many organizations raised their voice against it and even went to court. "In the coming days, we will expect the government to stop such a film which spreads hatred and destroys the community as they say. Therefore, the duty of the

government should be fulfilled by the government," he added.

Protesters burnt the effigy of Kangana Ranaut in Bathinda.

Sikh leader Gurdeep Singh said that Kangana Ranaut is spreading hatred against the farmers and Sikhs of the country.

"Our demand is that a case should be registered against Kangana and she should be arrested. BJP's policy is to create difference among the people but it should be remembered that it is easy to ignite a fire but difficult to extinguish it. He will not allow the 'Emergency' film to run and will oppose it in every way," he said. Sikh leader Sukhraj Singh said that they would not allow the film to be released. "Sikhs will not allow this film to be released, if this happens anywhere then the government will be responsible for whatever loss occurs," he added.

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Pakistani Christian becomes first in Goa to get citizenship under CAA

PANAJI : A Christian senior citizen from Pakistan, residing in Goa, was given an Indian citizenship certificate by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday through the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Joseph Francis A. Pereira who currently resides in Cansaulim, South Goa, is the first in the state to get Indian citizenship under CAA.

While speaking to ANI, Joseph thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for bringing the CAA. "CAA was applied and within one month, the approval has come. I am very grateful to the CAA that was brought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," he said.

Joseph Pereira was the only one who had applied for citizenship as his wife was already a citizen of India.

He further said, "I went in 1960 to Pakistan and I did my education there. I got an opportunity to work in Bahrain for 37 years. After my retirement in 2013, I came to Goa and from that time, I have been staying with my family. There are lots of Goan people in Pakistan but I have not visited there. My last visit there was in 1979. I had a hard time there while I was doing schooling as job opportunities were not there." His wife, Martha Pereira told ANI that they were trying to get citizenship from the time they got married, but nothing was helping them. "From the time we got married, have been applying but nothing was coming out of it. We applied through CAA in June this year. Without CAA, there would have been a lot of hurdles," she said. "I am thankful for whatever is happening in our case," she added. Speaking on the occasion, Goa CM Pramod Sawant said that it is a matter of pride for them. "I thank the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. Those who were in Pakistan or elsewhere were asking for citizenship for almost 60 years. So today after the law is passed, we are giving citizenship.

He further said, "I went in 1960 to Pakistan and I did my education there. I got an opportunity to work in Bahrain for 37 years. After my retirement in 2013, I came to Goa and from that time, I have been staying with my family. There are lots of Goan people in Pakistan but I have not visited there. My last visit there was in 1979. I had a hard time there while I was doing schooling as job opportunities were not there." His wife, Martha Pereira told ANI that they were trying to get citizenship from the time they got married, but nothing was helping them. "From the time we got married, have been applying but nothing was coming out of it. We applied through CAA in June this year. Without CAA, there would have been a lot of hurdles," she said. "I am thankful for whatever is happening in our case," she added. Speaking on the occasion, Goa CM Pramod Sawant said that it is a matter of pride for them. "I thank the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. Those who were in Pakistan or elsewhere were asking for citizenship for almost 60 years. So today after the law is passed, we are giving citizenship.

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