



Vibrant Summit seminars go full house

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THERE are 10 more days to go for the seventh edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit (VGGIS) to get underway, but "overwhelming response" to the event has forced the state government to close registrations for a majority of the theme seminars that will be held during the summits slated to be held between January 11 and 13.

Registrations to six of the 10 theme seminars that will be held between January 11 and 12 have been closed. The seminars for which registration have been closed include — Smart Cities for Next Generation, Gujarat: Preferred Hub for Defence Production, Innovation and Technology in Food Processing for Sustaining Food Security, Sustainable Energy for All, Water Security Climate Change and Sustainable Development and Innovation: The Torch Bearer of 21st century.

The seminars for which registrations are currently open include — CSR: Touching Lives & Making an Impact, SMEs: Gearing up for Global Competitiveness, Invest in India Summit 2015, Health For All: Leveraging Technology, Innovations & Enablers.

"The seminars on MSMEs and Invest in India topics will be the biggest of the seminars, accommodating between 3000-4000 persons. These seminars are scheduled to be held in the convention hall," said an official connected with the event.

Authorities close registrations for six of 10 theme seminars



Preparations are in full swing at Mahatma Gandhi complex in Gandhinagar.

JAVED RAJA

During Vibrant Summit, no space for private planes in Ahmedabad airport

AHMEDABAD: The Ahmedabad airport authority has asked some corporate houses to keep their private planes away from the airport parking during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit in Gandhinagar scheduled to be held between January 11 and 13. The airport officials said that during the summit, scores of corporate honchos and politicians are expected to land that is mostly likely going to create a chock-a-block situation at the airport as it has only 30 parking bays. Sources said at least five of top corporate groups based in Gujarat, who have permanent parking lot at the airport, have been told to park their aircraft somewhere else. Sources said that all the non-schedule operators have also been told to look for temporary parking in Vadodara, Rajkot, among other airports.

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The rest of the seminars will be held in smaller halls that have an average seating capacity for 400-500 persons, the official added. "The participants of the inaugural event on January 11, that will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the gathering, are being invited only. Even those who are registering for the seminars are being duly scanned before invites are issued," the official added.

Meanwhile, registrations remain open for the 12 country seminars, which will be held alongside the theme seminars, on January 11-12. UK, USA, Australia, Netherland, Japan, Singapore, Denmark, Bahrain, Canada, Sweden and Israel are among those who will host the country seminars.

The summit will also host a Global CEO's Conclave on January 11 and B2B and B2G meetings on January 13.

Farmers' body threatens statewide stir over MSP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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SANYUKTA Khedut Sangharsh Samiti, a conglomerate of 10 farmers' organisations, has threatened of a statewide agitation if their demands pertaining to hike in minimum support price (MSP) for cotton and groundnut were not met by January 7. The samiti leaders said that they would declare details of their agitation only on January 7.

It would be quite embarrassing for the state government, which is organising the three-day Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit (VGGIS) from January 11 to 13. World leaders, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, have been invited. January 7 will also see the curtain rise on the three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD). The samiti leaders also asked the state government to "stop vibrant tamahas being organised on farmers' corpses".

The samiti leaders, in a statement issued after the meeting, said that while the state government was going to spend crores of rupees on the vibrant Gujarat summit, cotton and groundnut farmers were forced to commit suicide on account of high input costs and low-income from their produce. The state government has already admitted that three farmers committed suicide during the current year.

Farmers from across the

THE DEMANDS

- Immediately declare MSP of Rs 1,200 per 20 kg for cotton and Rs 1,000 per 20 kg for groundnut
- Make regular 12-hour daily supply of power for agriculture
- Make arrangements to expedite crop insurance claims by October 31 every year
- Repeal anti-farmer Act like Special Investment Region Act of 2009
- Issue a time-table for Narmada water for farmers

Sunita Williams to attend PBD

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat-origin US astronaut Sunita Williams is expected to attend the opening ceremony of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) next month in Gandhinagar. State Finance Minister Saurabh Patel Tuesday said Williams was expected to attend the opening day of PBD (January 7) which will be celebrated as "Youth's PBD". "She will accompany External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, who will inaugurate the event," he said.

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state said that while other state governments were giving bonus over the minimum support price (MSP) declared by the Central government to encourage farmers to produce more, the Gujarat government was merely indulging in "cheating the farmers".

