

## Modi to launch ASEAN Chambers meet

BENGALURU, 5 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the three-day ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry Business meet, scheduled to begin here on 25 February.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Suresh Prabhu, Nirmala Sitaraman, Sadananda Gowda and Anantkumar Hegde, besides Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, would also be attending the meet.

In addition, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has agreed to participate. Vice President Mr Venkaiah Naidu will deliver the valedictory session.

The first of its kind meet in the state is being organised by the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) in collaboration with the state government. Leading businessmen, industrialists, exporters and importers from over 30 countries including ASEAN, ASEAN plus and special invitee nations will participate.

Speaking at a curtain-raiser meeting, FKCCI president Sudhakar Shetty said that the ASEAN business summit would include keynote addresses, B2B, B2G and B2C meetings. Over 2,000 delegates, 125 speakers, 1,500 organisations and 120 exhibitors, are expected to attend the event, sharing their experience with their counterparts.

He said around 30 ambassadors and 12 honorary counsels are expected at the conference which will have sessions on aerospace, defence, automobile and auto components, infrastructure, horticulture and food processing, renewable energy, gems and jewelry, among others. S Sapathraman, member of the organising committee, said 120 trade delegates from Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, China, UAE, Oman and Sri Lanka had confirmed their participation.