

# UP diaspora joins state's devpt journey

Shailvee.Sharda  
@timesgroup.com

**Lucknow:** A good chunk in Uttar Pradesh's extraordinary collection of investment intents through the Global Investors Summit came from the UP diaspora. The estimated investment made through the diaspora investors was

**PLEDGES ₹10K CR**

pegged at Rs 10,000 crore and counting.

"Much of the investment has come in sectors, like logistics, IT, pharma, agro, dairy, skill development among other things," said Pankaj Jaiswal Gandhi, chairman UP Development Forum, a not-profit organisation committed to integrate diaspora



Diaspora investors at the Global Investors Summit on Sunday

from UP. Gandhi said that most of the investors were moved by the idea to give back to their motherland and noted that their effort was given a red-carpet welcome by the Uttar Pradesh government.

"In addition to the policy framework and administrati-

ve support, the government was welcoming investment and expediting projects. This exemplifies ease of doing business in letter and spirit. The sentiment shall fuel the development," he said.

Diaspora investors upheld the thought. "As of now,

the buzzword in the investment world is Uttar Pradesh.... If you are not in UP, the general motion is that you are missing something," said Dr Ram Shankar Upadhyay of the Jeevaropana Life Sciences, which has pledged to make an investment of Rs 1,500 crore for a pharma project on the lines of Hyderabad-based Genome Valley.

"For anyone who goes to far-off land, even the best of achievements don't give the kind of satisfaction one gets by contributing towards development of one's homeland," said Dutch citizen Raj Mohan who has entered into an agreement to start a factory for manufacturing self-charging electric engines.

Dubai-based businessman Asif Khan wants to launch the 'one district one

school' project. "The idea is to strengthen primary education and create one state-of-the-art private school which is in the reach of common people. It will promote merit and nurture talent," he said. The project may begin on a pilot from five districts before all UP scale-up.

Another Middle East based businessman Syed Nadeem Zaidi wants to start an eye hospital and research centre in Deoria. "My father was an ophthalmic surgeon popularly called Dr Noori Baba. He practised about 40 odd years ago and conducted a lot of charitable work. The idea of starting a hospital in our hometown is to carry his legacy forward," he said.

A look into the list of MoUs signed is promising and futuristic.