

# Davos '24: UP panel shows state's potential to investors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh delegation, led by infrastructure and industrial development commissioner Manoj Kumar Singh, held multiple meetings with potential investors at World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, over the past three days.

On Tuesday, the delegation held discussions with Jacob Aarup-Andersen, CEO of Carlsberg Group, and Michel Doukeris, CEO of Budweiser. Singh apprised them of the growing demand for beer in UP and suggested opportunities to both companies for diversifying their brand portfolios and introducing new products tailored to local preferences.

The delegation also met Nivedita Krishnamurthy Bhagat, CFO of Capgemini and Nikhil Rathi, director and CEO, Web Werks. Capgemini is a multinational corporation providing consulting, technology, professional and outsourcing services to industries, while Web Werks is a global provider of

data centre solutions, offering dedicated server hosting, VPS hosting and cloud services. Two spotlight events were held at the UP Pavilion.

The 'Opportunities in Uttar Pradesh for Digital Infrastructure and Innovations in Agriculture and Food Processing' was attended by Stephen Kehoe, executive vice-president, chief corporate affairs officer and chairperson of Board of Directors, Pepsico Foundation,

## WEF IN DAVOS

Fernanda Lopes Larsen, executive vice president, Africa & Asia, Yara International and Gabriela Burian, global director, Bayer Crop Science.

The second one, 'Unlocking the Potential: Nurturing Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women in Uttar Pradesh' featured Union minister for women and child development Smriti Irani as keynote speaker, along with IIDC, Vartika Shukla from Engineers' India Ltd and Seema Chaturvedi, founder

and chair of AWE Foundation. A meeting was also held with Yusuff Ali, chairperson and MD of the Lulu Group where officials discussed progress of the group's projects in UP, including the food park, that is soon to open in Greater Noida and the progress of the Lulu Hypermarket and mall that are set to open in Prayagraj and Ayodhya.

On Monday, the delegation met Sanjiv Ahuja, chairperson of Tillman Global Holdings and officials of Climate Ai. The discussions centred on exploring investment opportunities in UP, especially in startups, innovations, AI, data centres and climate change. Tillman Global Holdings showed interest in investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and data centres. Another meeting was held with Romal Shetty, CEO Deloitte India, who announced the opening of an office at Noida with seating capacity for 2,000 employees. This office should be ready within two months and another in Lucknow in six months.