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CM launches Invest Karnataka 2020 curtain raiser

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa launched the curtain raiser of Invest Karnataka 2020, in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday. The event

will be held in Bengaluru on November 3, 4 and 5 this year, with the theme "Innovate now. Growth forever," according to an official release.

Launching the curtain raiser, the chief minister highlighted the opportunities to invest in Karnataka. Speaking at the event, he invited global busi-

nessmen and investors to take part in the event, the release said. More than 100 entrepreneurs, businessmen, heads and representatives of various major companies participated in the curtain raiser, the official statement added.

Would've been a mistake to not attend forum: CM

By: 24/1/20



Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa with Union Minister Piyush Goyal and state Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar at World Economic Forum in Davos | EXPRESS

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"INITIALLY, I was hesitant to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) meetings, but I am now feeling that I would have committed a mistake by not coming here," he said.

The CM was busy holding talks with business tycoons and promoting Karnataka as a best investment destination. "Heads of business houses and industrialists have gained confidence with my presence at the meetings. They have understood the seriousness of our urge to realise investments," he told *The New Indi-*

an Express.

In the last three days, the CM held talks with several top business honchos, including Lakshmi Mittal, chairman, Arcelor Mittal; Richard Ambrose, Executive Vice-President of Lockheed Martin; president of Volvo Hanka Angwel and representative of 2000 Watt company, Dassault Systemes, Bharat Forge, Lulu Group and Novo Nordisk. While some are planning to expand their operations in the state, others like Lockheed Martin are keen to explore the possibility investing in Karnataka.

This is the first time he is

away from the state for so long after he took over as CM, and the WEF meetings too are a new experience for the leader best known for his ability to win elections for the BJP.

"Though it is a new experience for me, I never differentiate or discriminate between works. Here I am as serious as I am with my political activities at home. I have participated with a zeal and seriousness in all the scheduled meetings," the CM said.

In fact, he met investors and industrialists who are not listed by the State Industries Department. His hectic schedule or the distance hasn't deterred the CM from keeping tabs on the developments back home. Chief Secretary Vijay Bhaskar, who has accompanied the CM, was briefing him regularly.

"Being a Chief Minister, it is my duty to keep track of happenings in my state. I am briefed regularly by the officials on the happenings in the state," he said. However, it was not all work, and no play for the CM. "I went round the city and had a ride in a ropeway car at a nearby hillock," said the CM, explaining how he enjoyed "every moment and every meeting in Davos."

Moving towards \$5 tn economy, says BSY

Amid Karnataka, which is the fourth-largest state economy in India, will help provide the economic muscle to propel the nation to reach Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of a \$5 trillion economy, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday. Union Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was also present.

Yediyurappa explained the strength of the state, saying that Karnataka's GDP was about \$250 billion and the growth rate was pegged at 9 per cent. He also stated plainly that he was seeking to invite entrepreneurs to invest in Karnataka. He expressed optimism that the business community would respond to his invitation, and was elated that investors were aware of Modi's \$5 trillion economy target.



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B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister.