

# SL envoy, CM hold talks to boost ties

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The image shows the logo for TOI (The Times of India). It consists of the letters 'TOI' in a large, white, serif font, centered on a solid red rectangular background.

Lucknow: Sri Lankan high commissioner Milinda Moragoda and chief minister Yogi Adityanath met on Thursday and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, especially UP and how they can be strengthened further. The high commissioner extended an invitation to the CM to visit his country, which the CM accepted.

The CM said that India and [Sri Lanka](#) have shared old cultural relations and the location of Ramayana era sites in Sri Lanka especially deepen the connect with UP. Thanking the high commissioner for bringing him a brick from the Ashok Vatika, the CM said that there are several sites associated with Lord Rama in his country.

“It is a matter of great pride for UP that it has the maximum number of sites associated with the Buddhist faith. Lord Buddha preached for the first time in Sarnath and Kapilvastu was his capital. He spent most of his time in Shrawasti and held the most satsangs in Kaushambi,” the CM said, adding that the recently inaugurated Kushinagar Airport, to which the first flight came from Sri Lanka, would now ensure that Buddhists, not just from Sri Lanka, but from the entire world could visit these places easily.

Praising the work done by the UP government, he said that strengthening the road network would improve the state's economy further.