

# Israel eyes stronger ties with UP, to help in modernisation of police

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LUCKNOW: A delegation from Israel led by its ambassador Naor Gilon met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday and affirmed to join hands in the fields of defence, police modernization, agricultural modernization, provision of better irrigation facilities to farmers and potable water in Bundelkhand.

Yogi said India-Israel relations have touched new heights in recent years and Uttar Pradesh is ready to play its role in the betterment of mutual relations between the two nations.

The Ambassador also congratulated Yogi on his historic victory in assembly elections and spoke about his experience of working in UP. UP will further strengthen ties with Israel as it already has several ongoing programmes, and there are several other sectors where the two could

work together like in setting up of forensic labs.

Gilon said the two nations share very strong relations and Israel is playing an active role in supporting UP in several sectors. Israel will also collaborate with UP in the fields of security, police modernisation, agriculture modernisation, efficient water usage in agriculture, water availability in Bundelkhand and defence production.

"Israel is working with the UP government to increase the income of farmers, improve supply of drinking water and water conservation and we will be taking forward these efforts. We will also exchange technology in defence, police modernisation and development of industries. UP and Israel will set up a joint team to take up these issues," he said.

Yogi said that during his visit to Israel in 2017, PM Narendra Modi had held discussions on various aspects of cooperation between the two countries. A delegation from UP had also accompanied the PM on this visit.

The CM said UP Police force of is one of the largest in the world. "We are working on a plan to modernize our police. Israel can help us in this. Israel can also be a good ally in the strengthening of forensic labs," he said.

Yogi said UP is the largest state in terms of population and has a big market. Along with agriculture, there is immense potential for development in the field of food processing in the state. Israel can make its proposals in this area, he said.

At present, two Centres of Excellence in horticulture have been established in the state with Israeli help, one in Kannauj and another in Basti. More such centres have been planned in the state in which Israel will assist the government.

The CM also invited Israel to invest in the upcoming defence industrial corridor, saying that Israel had expertise in drone and anti-drone technology and could consider setting up units. UP has sufficient land and manpower and the government is extending all help to potential investors. Yogi added that new projects in irrigation and drinking water supply in Bundelkhand, using Israeli technology, were on the anvil.