

# UP, Japan ink pact for tourism, vocational edu, industrial coop

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh govt signed an MoU with Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture on Monday in the fields of industrial cooperation, tourism, and vocational education.

The MoUs were exchanged between chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and director general of the Governor's Policy Planning Bureau of Yamanashi Junichi Ishidera, in the presence of CM Yogi Adityanath.

Welcoming the Japanese delegation led by Governor of Yamanashi Prefecture Kotaro Nagasaki, the CM, who also spoke a few sentences to the delegation in Japanese, said that India and Japan have shared friendly relations for centuries, with strategic, cultural and global cooperation. "India and Japan are major economies with similar priorities in social-economic development, democratic values and strategic perspectives. The strong relationship between PM Narendra Modi and Japan's former PM Shinzo Abe has elevated the political, economic, and



CM Yogi Adityanath with Governor of Yamanashi Prefecture Kotaro Nagasaki, in Lucknow on Monday

business ties between the two nations. The state govt is keen to collaborate with Japanese companies," he said.

The CM said that over 1,400 Japanese companies are currently operating in India, including seven major ones in UP. The bilateral trade between India and Japan in 2023-24 amounted to USD 22.854 billion, with Japan exporting USD 17.69 billion to India and importing USD 5.15 billion. He added that UP, as the most populous state, had the country's largest labour and consumer market with 25 crore residents. Over the past eight years, he said, the state had crea-

ted an excellent investment environment with improved connectivity through rail, road, air and waterways, enhanced logistics for industries to access global and domestic markets.

He said UP was the world's youngest state and its youth could gain skills through training in Japan, which would prepare them to contribute to industries globally. The current population under 15 will join the workforce in the coming decade.

Governor of Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture, Kotaro Nagasaki, acknowledged the spiritual and historical ties between Yamanashi and UP. Expressing happiness at the MoU, he said that Japan would work towards mutual cooperation in labour skill development, renewable energy, hydropower, and knowledge and technology exchange, elevating strategic relations between India and Japan. He invited Yogi Adityanath to consider Japan as his second home and expressed gratitude to all by inviting them to Yamanashi Prefecture.