

Yamanashi announces ₹600cr for MSMEs; Yogi praises decision

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Lucknow: Japan's Yamanashi prefecture has announced a Rs 600-crore fund to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in UP, giving a major push to the state's economic partnership with Japan.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday welcomed the move, saying it reflected growing Japanese confidence in UP as a long-term investment destination.

Addressing the valedictory session of the UP-Japan Investment Meet at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Yogi said: "The partnership would move beyond investment towards a long-term, trust-based partnership, combining Japan's precision and technology with UP's scale, young workforce and talent."

Yamanashi and UP will institutionalise their engagement, with a dedicated Yamanashi desk at Invest UP. The desk will coordinate with the prefecture, its industries and investors, while investment projects, industry requirements, approvals and challenges will be reviewed every 90 days.

Yogi said the state wanted to convert MoUs into production, production into global exports and investment into jobs. He invited Japanese companies, including global capability centres, to set up operations in Noida and Greater Noida and use UP as a base to serve global markets.

The Japanese representatives had appreciated UP's policy reforms, seamless approvals, simpler land allotment, reduced compliances and improving logistics infrastructure, including multimodal logistics hubs, integrated manufacturing and logistics clusters and industrial parks, Yogi said.

He added that the Yamanashi model would be extended to other Japanese prefectures, building on the cooperation developed during his Feb 2026 Japan visit.

Yogi said UP would work with Japanese companies to identify sector-specific manpower requirements and develop specialised training programmes.

"The aim is to create an ecosystem where industry requirements determine skills and skills lead to employment," he said.

The CM outlined opportunities in tourism and green hydrogen. UP will participate in a tourism festival in Japan to showcase its Buddhist, spiritual, cultural and heritage destinations and attract Japanese visitors.

On green hydrogen, Yogi said UP and Yamanashi would develop a pilot project involving Indian and Japanese companies. Centres of Excellence at IIT Kanpur and IIT-BHU will support research, technology adoption and clean-energy innovation.

An industry off-taker will be identified to develop the pilot into a scalable commercial model.