

Yamanashi Announces ₹600-Crore Fund to Support UP MSMEs, Yogi Unveils Dedicated Japan Investment Desk

₹600-Crore Yamanashi Fund to Power UP MSMEs, Four MoUs Deepen Japan Partnership

LUCKNOW, Aug 21: Uttar Pradesh and Japan moved their partnership into a new phase on Thursday with four MoUs covering Japanese-language skills, technical training, tourism and Global Capability Centres (GCCs), alongside a proposed **₹600-crore Japan-supported fund** to strengthen investment and development cooperation in the state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh would establish a **dedicated Yamanashi Desk at Invest UP** and maintain regular coordination with **JETRO and JICA** to facilitate Japanese investment and convert business interest into projects on the ground.

The announcements came at the **Japan-India Business Networking Event at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow**, held in partnership with Yamanashi Prefecture and attended by Yamanashi Governor **Kotaro Nagasaki**, senior Japanese officials, industry representatives and Uttar Pradesh ministers. The wider UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026 has brought more than 200 Japanese business leaders and CEOs to Uttar Pradesh, with discussions spanning manufacturing, skills, healthcare, tourism, food processing, green energy and technology.

₹600-crore Japan fund, dedicated Yamanashi Desk and JETRO-JICA coordination to anchor next phase

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the relationship with Japan must move beyond investment discussions towards structured, long-term cooperation. He said the proposed **₹600-crore fund** by Yamanashi would add financial depth to the partnership, while a dedicated Yamanashi Desk at Invest UP would provide a single institutional channel for investors and businesses from the prefecture. Regular coordination with JETRO and JICA, he said, would help identify investment opportunities, resolve issues and support Japanese companies through the investment cycle.

Addressing the Japanese delegation, the Chief Minister said Uttar Pradesh's improving connectivity, industrial infrastructure, skilled workforce and investor-friendly policies had created a stronger platform for Japanese companies. He stressed that the state wanted to build partnerships in which investment, technology, skills and employment advance together.

"Japan is not only an important investment partner for Uttar Pradesh; it is a long-term partner in our development journey. We want this relationship to become more structured and outcome-driven. The ₹600-crore fund, the dedicated Yamanashi Desk at

Invest UP and regular coordination with JETRO and JICA will help us move faster from dialogue to implementation. Uttar Pradesh has the scale, infrastructure and young workforce that Japanese companies need, while Japan offers technology, skills and global experience that can accelerate our growth. Our objective is to create a partnership that generates investment, jobs and lasting institutional linkages,” Yogi said.

He said the cooperation would support Uttar Pradesh’s larger ambition of becoming a major investment and manufacturing destination and contributing to the state’s **USD 1 trillion economy** goal.

Four MoUs turn Japan partnership into a jobs, tourism and technology agenda

Four MoUs were exchanged during the event, widening the scope of cooperation between Uttar Pradesh and Japan.

The first was exchanged between **Invest UP and the Technical Training & Research Centre, Kanpur**, focusing on technical training and workforce development. Shri **Shuichi Kamada**, Director, Japan Technical Training Centre, was felicitated along with three Uttar Pradesh-domiciled trainees placed in Japan, highlighting the growing skills and employment linkage between the two sides.

The **Tourism Department** exchanged the second MoU with representatives of Yamanashi Prefecture to promote sustained and incremental tourist movement between the two regions. The agreement seeks to build stronger tourism linkages and encourage greater awareness of Uttar Pradesh’s Buddhist, spiritual and cultural destinations among Japanese visitors.

The third MoU, between **Invest UP and representatives of Yamanashi Prefecture**, aims to strengthen collaboration and promote the establishment of **Japanese GCCs in Uttar Pradesh**. The partnership is expected to create opportunities in technology, business services, digital operations and high-value employment.

The fourth agreement, between the **Labour Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and representatives of Yamanashi Prefecture**, focuses on ensuring a consistent supply of **Japanese-language proficient workforce**. It is designed to connect training in Uttar Pradesh with employment requirements in Japan and strengthen the state’s position as a source of globally employable talent.

Together, the agreements create a wider framework linking Japanese investment with workforce development, tourism and technology.

Healthcare, food processing and clean energy add new sectors to the partnership

At the **UP-Japan Healthcare and Care Economy Partnership** session, Deputy Chief Minister **Brijesh Pathak** said Uttar Pradesh was ready to align its medical and paramedical training with Japanese requirements. He noted that medical colleges had

increased from 47 to more than 83 and said training and Japanese-language skills could prepare youth for healthcare opportunities in Japan.

Minister **Kapil Dev Agrawal** said Japan's technology and Uttar Pradesh's young workforce could create a stronger model of cooperation in healthcare and employment. He invited Japanese companies to bring technology, expertise and investment to the state.

Labour Minister **Anil Rajbhar** said the government wanted to create employment opportunities for youth in India and abroad, with the Japan partnership providing a structured pathway to international jobs.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health **Amit Ghosh** highlighted Japanese healthcare technology, robotics and medical infrastructure. He said the proposed **400-acre MedTech Park** and PPP-based medical colleges could open avenues for Japanese investment and technology transfer.

At the food-processing session, Deputy Chief Minister **Keshav Prasad Maurya** said Uttar Pradesh's agricultural base, water resources and workforce provided the scale to build a global food-processing ecosystem. He said Japanese technology and supply-chain expertise could help move the state from primary production to higher-value processing and global markets.

Japan's Ambassador to India **Ono Keiichi** called for practical partnerships connecting technology, investment and skills with local opportunities. Kikkoman India Director **Harry Hakuei Kosato** highlighted opportunities in localisation, food manufacturing, consumer markets and exports.

The clean-energy agenda also advanced, with **UPNEDA and the Japanese delegation exchanging an MoU** to deepen cooperation in renewable energy, clean-energy value chains and technology collaboration. Centres of Excellence at **IIT Kanpur and IIT BHU** were highlighted as platforms for research, talent and technology transfer.

Tourism and Culture Minister **Jaiveer Singh** said Uttar Pradesh was developing Buddhist destinations with greater emphasis on connectivity, tourist facilities, accommodation and visitor experience. He identified Japan as a natural partner because of the long-standing cultural and spiritual links associated with Lord Buddha.

He said the state wanted **Yamanashi to become an important gateway for Uttar Pradesh tourism in Japan**, while positioning Uttar Pradesh as a destination for Japanese travellers interested in Buddhism, spirituality, wellness and Indian culture. Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kapilvastu, Kaushambi and Sankisa were highlighted as key destinations.

Institutional ties with Yamanashi deepen alongside investment cooperation

Industrial Development Minister **Nand Gopal Gupta ‘Nandi’** said stronger Japanese participation could expand Uttar Pradesh’s industrial and investment footprint. The state is working to create dedicated facilitation mechanisms and deepen engagement with Japanese companies.

The institutional relationship was further strengthened when Assembly Speaker **Satish Mahana** welcomed a delegation from the Yamanashi Prefectural Assembly. A **Friendly Exchange MoU** was signed between the Yamanashi Prefectural Assembly and the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly by Mahana and Yamanashi Assembly Chairman **Hidenori Miyamoto**. The discussions also highlighted Kashi and the Buddhist Circuit as important cultural links.

The latest initiatives give the UP–Japan relationship a more permanent institutional architecture—combining finance, investment facilitation, skills, tourism, healthcare, food processing, clean energy and technology. With the ₹600-crore fund, a dedicated Yamanashi Desk and closer coordination with JETRO and JICA, Uttar Pradesh is seeking to make Japanese engagement more predictable, faster and project-oriented.

The partnership reflects the state’s broader economic strategy: use its infrastructure, talent and market scale to attract global investment while building stronger international linkages for jobs, technology and sustainable growth.
