

**Japanese Ambassador calls on the Chief Minister**  
**Deliberations on cooperation in various sectors between UP and Japan**

*Lucknow : 11 May, 2017*

The Japanese ambassador to India Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu called on the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the latter office at Shastri Bhawan here today. Also present during the meeting was second secretary at the Japanese Embassy Mr. Akio Sugimoto.

The Japanese envoy congratulated Mr Yogi on his taking charge of Uttar Pradesh as the Chief Minister and pointed out how India and Japan share longstanding cultural and historic relations. He also held discussions with the Chief Minister on cooperation in industrial, tourism sectors in Uttar Pradesh and also held parleys of opportunities of higher education for students of UP.

The Chief Minister reciprocated by saying that the ties between India and Japan have been very strong and added that Uttar Pradesh wanted to use these ties for the development of the state. He also expressed his desire to see the ties between the two countries reach new heights. Also taken up during the discussion between the two sides was mutual cooperation and development of Uttar Pradesh.

Ambassador Mr. Hiramitsu said that the Japanese Government wanted to further strengthen the cultural and economic ties between the two countries and wanted the communication between people of the two countries for intellectual exchanges. He also informed the Chief Minister that the gift of convention centre to Varanasi by Japanese premier Mr Shinzo Abe during his visit to Varanasi with Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi ji will be completed soon.

Varanasi and Qyoto have signed the partner city agreement under which water, sewerage and waste management modernization will be taken up along with the traffic mechanism in the city. The visiting dignitary also pointed out at the financial assistance by Japan towards regeneration of Ganga river in Varanasi, waste disposal and establishing of the Fatima hospital and Gorakhpur and a school in Ambedkarnagar and assured similar assistance and cooperation by his country in future too.

The Japanese ambassador also informed that ODA also provides loans to minimise pollution from thermal power plants and expressed the desire of his government to make these power plants modern by use of new techniques. The Chief Minister informed his that the state government was working hard to develop the Buddhist circuit encompassing Varanasi, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Kapilvastu and Shrawasti and other areas for Buddhists pilgrims from Japan and other countries.

He also expressed hope that like in the past these projects will continue to get the support of the Japanese government in future too. The Chief Minister also said that his government was committed to improving the basic education in the state and to induce more quality and to make it more job-oriented. For this, students of classes XI and XII would also be taught foreign languages as part of the syllabus. This would include learning Japanese.

The Ambassador welcomed this step of the state government and said the Japanese government would be happy to chip in for training of teachers for teaching Japanese language. He added that facility for learning Japanese has been, at present, made in IIT-Kanpur, BHU and Amity University. Like educational exchanges between IIT-Kanpur and

Tokyo University, other similar pacts can be done with state universities in UP for research, the envoy added.

Yogi Adityanath also said that the State Government was committed to strengthening and developing infrastructure facilities in the state and said that Japan can contribute in a big way in this in regions like Poorvanchal and Bundelkhand. Ambassador Mr. Hiramitsu also expressed the desire to bring a delegation of industrialists and investors from Japan to Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister welcomes this initiative and said that the state government would look forward to such a visit and extend all possible cooperation for development of Uttar Pradesh.

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***Eng.CM-Meets-Japanese Ambassador-11 May, 2017***