

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the Investment Roadshow of
Uttar Pradesh on 26 February 2026 at Yamanashi**

Yogi Adityanath Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

H.E. Kotaru Nagasaki, Hon'ble Governor of Yamanashi

Shri Suresh Kumar Khanna, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of the State of
Uttar Pradesh

Shri Nand Gopal Gupta, Hon'ble Minister for Infrastructure and Industrial
Development, Government of the State of Uttar Pradesh

Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri Deepak Kumar, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner,
Government of Uttar Pradesh

Senior Officials and Delegation Members from the Government of Uttar Pradesh,
Representatives of Japanese Industry,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and a warm welcome to all.

At the outset, let me extend a very warm welcome to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and other members of his delegation from the most vibrant and beautiful State of Uttar Pradesh. Leading a population larger than most countries, Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Ji represents the strength and spirit of 250 million people.

2. Friends, India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership—one rooted in trust, shared values, and deep people-to-people connections. Japan today is one of India's most trusted and valued partners. Our civilizational links go back centuries. Buddhism travelled from India to Japan, shaping Japanese culture and philosophy. The visit of the delegation from the State of Uttar Pradesh has added to the ongoing exchanges between our two countries.

3. Friends, in August 2025, India and Japan brought out a Joint Vision for the Next Decade during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan in August 2025. This vision document recognizes 'State-Prefecture' cooperation as a key pillar of our Next Generation Partnership. Concrete evidence of this in action can be seen in the burgeoning relationship between Uttar Pradesh and Yamanashi.

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4. Building on the groundwork laid during Governor Nagasaki's visit to Uttar Pradesh in 2024, the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) now drives critical cooperation in industry, tourism, and vocational education amongst others. This agreement specifically targets future-forward sectors such as green hydrogen and decarbonization technical exchanges.
5. Friends, another key pillar of our bilateral mutually beneficial partnership Human Resource Exchange. For the Japanese economy that is facing a shortage of skilled labor, India can provide talented and skilled people. Let me point out that with a young, skilled, and productive population—nearly 60 percent in the working-age group—trained at premier institutes like IIM Lucknow, IIT Kanpur, IIT BHU and AIIMS Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh offers India's largest skilled, cost-competitive, industry-ready workforce.
6. Friends, India's Growth Story is one of Scale with Stability. India today is the fastest-growing large economy in the world and Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister is on a mission to become a \$1 Trillion economy.
7. Uttar Pradesh, a large market in itself, and is also strategically located. It is one of the best-connected industrial destinations. It now has India's largest network of roadways and railways, 5 international airports (including one upcoming), and 16 domestic airports—creating a truly multimodal logistics ecosystem. This commitment to world-class connectivity mirrors the technological excellence we see in Japan. I am happy to note that Hon'ble Chief Minister's visit to Yamanashi will include a visit to the Maglev Facility here.
8. Friends, when we speak of the partnership between Uttar Pradesh and Yamanashi, we are not merely discussing a movement of people; we are talking about a reconnection of civilizations. If Yamanashi is defined by the majesty of Mount Fuji and the restorative heritage of its hot springs, Uttar Pradesh stands as the custodian of the Buddhist Circuit—the sacred geography of Sarnath, Kushinagar, and Shravasti.
9. Friends, India has just concluded the AI impact Summit 2026 with more than 118 countries participating and over 5 lakh footfall. Uttar Pradesh, itself, is positioning itself as the "Silicon Heart" of Northern India, with its new Semiconductor policy (2024).

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10. Japan's partnership with Uttar Pradesh has also been steadily expanding. Several leading Japanese companies—Denso, Matsui Technologies; Honda Motor Co., Ltd.; Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd., Toyo Ink SC Holdings; Nissin Corporation in integrated logistics—have already established operations in Uttar Pradesh.

11. Invest UP, an investment promotion and facilitation agency, has also created a dedicated Japan Desk to ensure that our Japanese partners looking to explore UP for investments has a "red carpet" experience.

12. Uttar Pradesh will establish a dedicated "Japan City" spanning approximately 500 acres in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) region. We hope to see the pioneering industries of Yamanashi Prefecture at the core of this city, alongside partners from across Japan.

13. Friends, finally, let me highlight one thing – India and Japan have a relationship based on shared values and trust; we have a relationship which is mutually beneficial. There is much to be gained by leveraging our complementary strengths in technology, innovation, and culture. Together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future for our people and for the world. And today, let me take this opportunity to urge all of you to look at the historic state of UP more closely. It offers exciting opportunities for Japanese companies. UP, and its pioneering Chief Minister are here to welcome you warmly.

14. Without much ado, let me once again extend my heartfelt gratitude to Government of Uttar Pradesh for their efforts in fostering economic and cultural ties between India and Japan. I look forward to our continued cooperation to create pathways for success in this next-generation partnership.

Thank You.
