

KYOTO UNIV-BHU TO  
STUDY CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE OF KASHI

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# Kyoto Univ-BHU to jointly study climate resilience

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On the occasion, Akio Isomata, minister (deputy ambassador) Japanese embassy, and councillor Maso Hiroaki and Rajib Shaw of the Kyoto University were also present. Devyani Khobragade, external affairs ministry official, and AK Raghubanshi, director, Institute of environment and sustainable development (IESD), BHU, were also present there. As part of the agreement, Neha Sahoo, town planner and sanitation expert of Kyoto University and Primit Varma of the BHU would carry out a research (PhD) on Varanasi on the topic of the above-mentioned study. The study is an attempt to provide baseline information for building city's resilience by identifying the root cause of vulnerabilities with a multi stakeholder approach.

It would be based on questionnaire survey covering the five resilience-based dimensions- natural, physical, social, economic, and institutional- in which every dimension has five linked parameters.

"Varanasi has its strength in social capital, household assets, education and awareness, water supply system and institutional collaboration. These collectively can enhance city's physical, social, economic and institutional resilience. Even at the zone level, social capital becomes as asset for all zones on which the community preparedness activities and social resilience can be built on," Shaw told newsmen.

"Water supply in most zones as well as in the city level is another strength on which the



Japanese officials taking a boat ride on Friday to inspect famous ghats of Kashi.

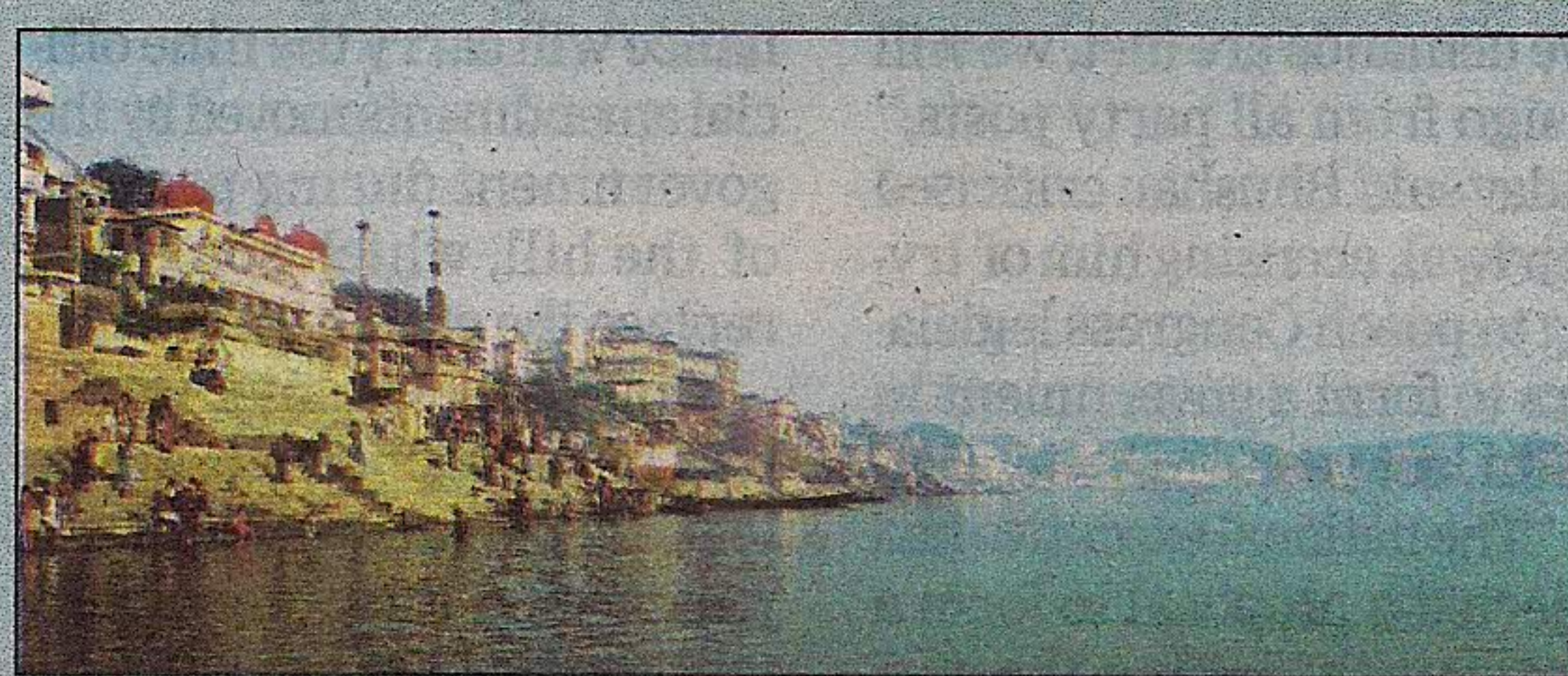
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## MAKE WORK EVIDENT BEFORE PM'S VISIT: KHOBRAGADE

**VARANASI:** "Ground work must be clearly evident before PM Narendra Modi comes to Varanasi on his next visit," Devyani Khobragade, an official of the ministry of external affairs (MEA), told VMC officials and those in charge of executing projects in the PM's constituency. Khobragade was in Varanasi on Friday for the signing of an MoU between Kyoto University and the BHU.

During interaction with Mayor Ram Gopal Mohle and other VMC officials, Khobragade laid stress on proper execution of projects in Kashi. She also stressed that the Japanese government was serious about Varanasi's development. Khobragade also informed that an office of the external ministry would be opened in states that shared their borders with neighbouring countries. "As Uttar Pradesh is an important state and it shares its border with Nepal, one such office would be set up in Lucknow," she added. The MEA official also purchased famous wooden toys of Varanasi for her kids.

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### ISSUES THAT NEED FOCUS

Governance capacity, identify specific department, budget allocation and trained personnel. Social media and smart media system to share lessons and learning better technology for sanitation, solid waste management, road conditions and health system.

The issues that need to be sustained and can be considered as an asset for Varanasi, are social capital and community cohesion and relationship, water supply system, household assets.

Based on this analysis, an action plan based on short, medium and long-term priorities needs to be

developed for the city. Plan needs to be updated and the progress of its implementation needs to be monitored keeping in mind that city resilience is a dynamic factor, which changes over time.

### BRIEF REPORT PREPARED

A brief report has already been prepared by Kyoto research scholar Ranit Chatterjee and BHU scholar Primit Varma on Varanasi.

The report was prepared in three months covering all 90 wards of Varanasi. The report indicates sanitation and solid waste management system in all five zones of the VMC.

physical resilience can be built on. Household assets are relatively higher in most zones and people have relatively higher level of education and awareness," Shaw added.

Community exchange programmes would also take place between Kyoto and Varanasi.

"People from Kyoto will come down to Varanasi. Interaction between common public of the

city cities is also important. It is during these interactions that people of Varanasi will learn about high standards of sanitation in Kyoto," said Raghubanshi.