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Information Note on World Bank President's Visit to Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

KANPUR, Uttar Pradesh, India, March 12, 2013 – Today World Bank Group President **Jim Yong Kim** was on a daylong visit to Uttar Pradesh – India's most populous state and home to the largest number of poor in India – to gain a firsthand view of some of the state's economic and social challenges and to find out how best the World Bank Group could support the state's development agenda.

In Lucknow, the World Bank President met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Akhilesh Yadav**.

Later in the day, **Kim** visited the industrial city of Kanpur. He went to an Anganwadi center in Tilsari khurd village where he met Anganwadi workers who informed him of the opportunities, issues, and challenges in the delivery of nutrition and health services. He met women including young mothers who expressed the need for better health services in the village.

In Kanpur, **Kim** visited the banks of the Ganga River where he was briefed on the challenges the government faces in its efforts to clean the river. The World Bank is supporting the National Mission Clean Ganga through a \$1.1 billion project which is being implemented in five basin states, including UP. Kanpur city lies on the critical middle stretch of the river where pollution loads are at their highest.

He travelled to a low-income neighborhood of Gwaltoli to see first-hand some of India's urban challenges.

The World Bank Group President also saw work being done under two innovative International Finance Corporation (IFC)-supported private sector projects for financial inclusion – Financial Inclusion Network & Operations Pvt. Ltd. (FINO) and Aadhar Housing Finance Private Ltd. While FINO is using biometric smart cards to allow for low-cost, reliable financial transactions between banks and their poorest customers, Aadhar Housing Finance Private Ltd is a housing finance company serving low-income households in states like Uttar Pradesh.

India is the largest client of the World Bank Group. Between 2009 and 2013, the Group lent around \$25.5 billion to India. This includes \$12 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), \$8.3 billion from the International Development Association (IDA) and a further \$5.2 billion in investments from the International Finance Corporation (IFC). As of January 2013, total IBRD and IDA net commitments stood at \$23.1 billion (IBRD \$13.2 billion, IDA \$9.9 billion) across 77 projects. At the end of January 2013, IFC's portfolio contained 219 projects, amounting to committed and disbursed exposure of \$4.1 billion.

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