

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the San-in India
Association-Annual event
Hotel Ichibata, Matsue
June 2, 2026; 1700 hrs.**

Ms. Eriko Ishihara, Vice Governor of Shimane Prefecture

Mr. Akihito Uesada, Mayor of Matsue

Mr. Tohru Yamasaki, Chairman, The San-in India Association

Mr. Norio Matsuo, Former Chairman, The San-in India Association

Prof. Hiroki Otani, President, Shimane University

Friends of India; Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to join you all at this annual reception of the San-in India Association. Over the last 10 years, the San-in India Association has served as a unique bridge between the San-in region of Japan and India. One of the most remarkable achievements of the Association has been its consistent and sharp focus on economic and people-to-people exchanges. From exchanges of several business delegations to realization of significant MOUs, the Association has been actively catapulting the bilateral cooperation.

The depth of the relationship particularly with Kerala stands testimony. The renewal of the MoU between Lake Nakaumi, Lake Shinji & Mount Daisen Area Mayors' Association and the Kerala Government for Economic Cooperation last year is a sign of the constantly growing partnership. Under the MoU, nine priority sectors including Agriculture, Fisheries, Trade, Shipbuilding, Tourism, IT, Environment & Energy, Ayurveda, Welfare & Medical Care have been identified for cooperation. I encourage all stakeholders to work on each of these areas to realize the full potential.

Today is a historic day for India-Matsue partnership. Earlier, I had the honour of unveiling the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the beautiful Suetsugi park. The unveiling of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi adds an important milestone to the relationship between India and the people of this region. I also visited Nakamura Hajime Memorial Hall, which is another example of our historic and longstanding cultural partnership.

Check Against Delivery

I am pleased to learn about the establishment of the Japan–India Global Education and Research Center (JIGER) and the Center of Excellence in partnership with IIT Hyderabad at Shimane University. These initiatives will deepen our partnership and encourage greater academic exchanges. I would like to see more activities deriving out of such established arrangements.

In recent months, I have had the privilege of meeting leaders across Japan from Ministers to Parliamentarians to governors and assembly members. In every one of these meetings, what strikes me is not only the strategic convergence but also the warmth and genuine friendship. I feel the same today as well. Though its my first visit to Shimane prefecture, I am fully convinced that there exists enormous potential between our two sides.

We often speak of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan. It is through such meaningful engagements like the one we have with Shimane, that the partnership become more stronger. All of your contributions and efforts make this journey meaningful.

As we build toward the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between India and Japan in 2027, I believe our celebrations have already started.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the San-In India Association for inviting me to this annual reception. I assure full support from the Embassy and Consulate General in Osaka to San-In-India Association in its efforts to further strengthen relations with India.

Jai Hind.

Arigato Gozaimasu.
