

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at Nagano Day
08 July 2026**

Your Excellency, Mr. ABE Shuichi, Governor, Nagano Prefecture
Your Excellency Mr. YODA Meizen, Speaker, Nagano Prefectural Assembly
Your Excellency Mr. IIJIMA Isao, Special Advisor to the Cabinet, Prime Minister's Office
Hon'ble Members of National Diet,
Members of Prefectural Assembly, Local Government
Excellencies, distinguished guests, members of the business community, and friends of India in Japan,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Embassy of India as we celebrate the opportunities for cooperation and partnership between India and Nagano Prefecture.

India & Japan have a strong Special Strategic and Global Partnership, since 2014. The partnership covers all sectors from defense to economy, culture to people-to-people cooperation.

The relationship between Indian states and Japanese prefectures is especially important for our economic and people-to-people cooperation.

We have recently concluded Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Sanae Takaichi's visit to India. At the summit both the leaders recognised '**State-Prefecture**' cooperation as a key pillar of our Next Generation Partnership. They welcomed the ever-growing exchanges at the regional level, including the establishment of **India-Japan Governors' Network for Friendship and Exchange of which Nagano is also a key stakeholder.**

Friends, the India-Japan relationship is one of mutual benefit. Our economies and our demography are complementary and this augurs well for the future.

We are gratified that Japan, especially JBIC, continues to rank India as the most promising overseas destination (for the 15th consecutive year).

Check Against Delivery

Friends, as highlighted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi at the India Japan Economic Summit “**When Japan's expertise and investment combines with Indian scale and speed, the whole world gets benefited.**”

The story of India's economic growth speaks for itself. We are consistently growing at over seven percent, powered by stable governance, policy continuity, and robust domestic demand.

In fact, just a few months ago, we launched a new generation of reforms aimed at transforming our taxation, refining governance, and drastically improving the ease of doing business.

This progress is highly visible—reflected in the steadily growing presence of Japanese companies, including your **major banking and financial institutions**, right across India.

Friends, we recognise that Japanese prefectures are the key drivers of Japanese economy – with their strengths in manufacturing, technology, with their SMEs. Their partnership with Indian states with similar or complementary strengths can forge long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

Human resource cooperation: For the Japanese economy that is facing a shortage of skilled labor, India can provide talented and skilled people. The Action Plan for Human Resource Exchange agreed to by our leadership in 2025 has created the ground for this exchange to mutual benefit.

Friends, under the leadership of His Excellency Abe Shuichi—who also serves as the President of the National Governors' Association—Nagano Prefecture is actively taking lead in forging partnership with India.

We are happy to note that companies from Nagano prefecture are already (such as **Sakurai Manufacturing, Nihon Seiki Kogyo, Nihon Delki Sokki**) have taken part at business event in India in February 2026.

Nagano's expertise in clean energy, environmental innovation and advanced manufacturing aligns well with India's priorities.

Tourism and Talent: From yoga to wintersports, our people-to-people ties are thriving. India's massive talent pool is ready to support Nagano's industries, while Indian travelers are increasingly discovering the beautiful slopes and rich culture of **the Roof of Japan**.

Friends, today is not just about celebrating our friendship; it is about mapping the concrete business, technological, and cultural bridges we will build next.

I would like to thank the leadership and the people of Nagano Prefecture, as well as our Japanese friends who have contributed to making this event a reality today. I am confident that today's event will be the stepping stone for strengthened ties between India and Nagano in the future.

I thank you.
