

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the JIPFL meeting
July 17, 2026**

Hon'ble Chairman Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura,
Distinguished Members of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen
Good morning

It is a great pleasure and privilege to join you today. At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Chairman Nishimura and all the members of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League for inviting me to this important meeting.

The League has, over many decades, served as one of the strongest pillars of India-Japan relations. Parliamentary friendships link the people's representatives directly together and so for democracies like India and Japan, they are an essential pillar of our friendship that provide continuity, trust and political understanding that sustain strategic partnerships over generations.

I would therefore like to convey the appreciation on behalf of my Government, for your commitment to strengthening India-Japan relations.

Hon'ble Members,

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's recent visit to India has injected fresh momentum into our Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Her discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected not only the depth of mutual trust between our two countries but also a shared vision for the Indo-Pacific and for the future of Asia.

I would like to brief the Hon'ble Members of JIPFL on the way we saw the visit.

The warmth displayed during the visit also demonstrated something very important- that India and Japan remain natural partners, united by shared democratic values, respect for international law, and a common

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commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Both leaders recalled what the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had said, that a strong Japan and a strong India were in each other's interest and, in fact, in the regional and global interest. Prime Minister Modi had said, while addressing the G7 leaders just recently, that trust is the new currency of global partnerships. And that currency of trust, I would say, was visible in abundance during the Summit.

The outcomes from the visit broadly fall under three crucial areas: economic security, energy resilience, and technology and innovation.

On economic security, both leaders were on the same page when it came to recognizing the overlapping nature of the supply chain challenges that they faced and, hence, the need for making common cause and developing reliable and unstressed supply chains. The economic security declaration that was agreed gives practical guidance to further strengthen Project-based economic security cooperation.

On energy resilience, a joint statement was issued, affirming that as responsible powers and major energy-consuming countries, we will work together to jointly strengthen our respective energy resilience. We also agreed to cooperate on strategic stockpiling and reserve mechanisms for crude oil and petroleum products, as well as exploring joint investments in maritime energy transport value chains. We also announced the Japan-India Cooperative Biogas for Growth Initiative, under which Japan will partner in setting up 1,000 biogas plants all across India, thereby contributing both to energy resilience as well as prosperity.

The third major focus was on advanced technology and innovation. Building on the India-Japan AI cooperation initiative, a joint statement on cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence was released. It reaffirms the convergence between the vision of the two countries on the future of AI, which is a vision that is centered on safe, secure, and trustworthy AI that contributes to security and prosperity for all.

Finally, as we look ahead at the year 2027, which marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries,

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both leaders agreed to a list of commemorative outcomes and events with a strong focus on youth to celebrate this milestone in a befitting manner. We will celebrate the year 2027 as the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has also invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Japan next year for the annual summit.

On the business side, 129 B2B MoUs were signed since the last Summit in August 2025, reflecting an aggregate investment commitment of around 10 billion US dollars, nearly 15% of the 10 trillion yen target.

This was on the recent Annual Summit.

Excellencies,

Today's agenda also includes the election of office bearers of the Friendship League. May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Chairman Nishimura for his leadership and dedication. Under his guidance, the League has continued to strengthen parliamentary engagement and has actively supported closer India-Japan cooperation. I also congratulate all those who will assume responsibilities as members of the JIPFL. The Embassy of India looks forward to working closely with the new team and with every member of this distinguished League. Count on us as your friends and co-builders of our relations as we count on you.

Let me conclude by once again thanking Chairman Nishimura and all distinguished members for your steadfast friendship towards India. I look forward to working closely with each one of you as we prepare for the landmark 75th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations in 2027, and as we build an even stronger, broader and more future-oriented partnership.

Thank you very much
Arigatou gozaimashita.
