

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the event: India-Japan
Partnership: Toyama
(09 February 2026)**

**Your Excellency Mr. NITTA Hachiro, Governor, Toyama Prefecture,
Your Excellency Mr. TAKEDA Shinichi, Speaker, Toyama Prefecture,
Hon'ble Member of Parliament,
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 highlight the opportunities for cooperation and partnership between India and Toyama Prefecture.

This is my second "Prefecture Day" engagement at the Embassy after taking charge as the Ambassador-designate of India to Japan, and I have come to understand that the State-Prefecture relationship, which also got mentioned in August 2025 Joint Vision, is an important pillar in India- Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

It is no exaggeration to say that Toyama Prefecture has been a pioneer in strengthening this sub regional partnership. His Excellency Mr. Nitta Hachiro has himself led it from the front. He led the Toyama Prefecture India Economic Delegation to India in 2024 which resulted in renewal MoU signed between the State of Andhra Pradesh and Toyama Prefecture in 2015. I am also glad to note that both signatories of renewed MoU, His Excellency Mr Nitta and Mr. N Yuvraj, Secretary, Industry and Commerce, Government of Andhra Pradesh are joining this event today, with Mr. Vuvraj joining virtually from India. India-Toyama partnership was further strengthened with establishment of Toyama Prefecture India Economic Desk at JETRO Toyama in 2025. Last year we celebrated Toyama Day at India Pavillion Bharat at Osaka Expo 2025 on 27 June 2025. Therefore, it was logical to celebrate Toyama Day at the Embassy on this large scale and I am happy to note that we have been able to gather here despite the election to celebrate Toyama Day.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Check Against Delivery

India is today one of the fastest growing major economies in the world. We are one of the youngest countries in the world, with a talented pool of skilled workers. Today, India is a nation that is filled with dynamism and hungry for growth and development.

India and Japan have a partnership rooted in shared values and a shared vision for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific. The Special Strategic and Global Partnership that we have is time-tested and is nurtured through attention given at the highest levels of our leadership. This relationship covers a wide spectrum of areas of cooperation – from trade and economy, to defence and security; from semiconductors and artificial intelligence, to culture and people-to-people ties.

We firmly believe that the true potential of our bilateral ties comes not just from the Capitals but by going beyond New Delhi and Tokyo. With this in mind, when our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi visited Japan in August, a renewed push was given for India and Japan to achieve a “Next Generation State-Prefecture Partnership” to give an impetus to trade, technology, tourism, skills, security and cultural linkages between our two countries.

The Governor of Toyama, H.E. Mr. NITTA Hachiro was present in the interaction between our Prime Minister and Governors of 16 Prefectures of Japan, and was a witness to the importance that our leadership places on strengthening ties with Japanese Prefectures.

Excellencies,

Toyama’s expertise in clean energy, environmental innovation and advanced manufacturing aligns well with India’s national priorities. There is significant potential for collaboration between Toyama based institutions and Indian industrial and research hubs, especially in the fields of green technology and resource efficiency.

Equally important is our effort to deepen people-to-people exchanges. While India has the world’s largest young and skilled population, the number of Indian students and professionals in Japan remains relatively low. I strongly believe Toyama can play a leading role in changing that. In this regard, I am happy to note the signing of an academic exchange agreement between Toyama Prefectural University and Andhra University. Through such academic partnerships, student exchange programs, vocational training initiatives and cultural engagements, we can create platforms for young Indians and Japanese to learn from one another and grow together.

Check Against Delivery

In the next two hours, we have a rich programme ahead of us where we could find avenues for cooperation in investment, tourism, renewable energy, science and technology and academic exchanges. I am also looking forward to watching the display of cultural performances from Toyama and India.

I would like to thank the leadership and the people of Toyama 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 Toyama in the future.

I thank you.
