

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the Welcome Reception
hosted by Japan-India Association
(10 Feb 2026)**

**Your Excellency Mr. Akitaka Saiki, President, Japan-India Association
Your Excellency Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Chairman, Japan-India
Parliamentary Friendship League
Mr. Tatsuo Yasunaga, Chairman, The Japan-India Business Co-operation
Committee
Mr. Ryuko Hira, Chairman, Indian Commerce and Industry Association
Japan
Distinguished members of JIA, ICIJ, JIBCC,
Other distinguished guests, friends,**

Good Evening. Allow me to begin with my very warm thanks to the organizers for this wonderful welcome. I truly feel that I am among friends - friends who are working constantly to strengthen the India-Japan relationship. I consider it my privilege to have been appointed as the Indian Ambassador to Japan and to be tasked with helping steer this very important relationship forward.

2. The Japan-India Association has been a vital catalyst in promoting and strengthening cultural, economic and people to people ties between our two countries for over 12 decades. Under the leadership of Chairman H.E Mr. Yoshihide SUGA, it has played an important role in taking our bilateral relations to a higher level.

3. The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global partnership, today, holds more salience than ever. What was once primarily an economic relationship has now grown into one with a broad, comprehensive and strategic focus. India's MAHASAGAR, meaning Oceans, and our view of the Indo-Pacific aligns with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific. Our mutual commitment to shared values and common interests of democracy, freedom and rules-based order, is a key factor in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Friends,

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4. The leaders of both our countries place a high-level of trust in this relationship. I am happy that Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi met each other at the G20 Summit in South Africa in November last year. The markers of this relationship, the Global and Strategic Partnership are encapsulated in the Joint Vision for the Next Decade that was adopted in August 2025. I expect that the eight pillars of the Joint Vision - economic partnership, economic security, mobility, ecological sustainability, technology and innovation, health, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and state–prefecture cooperation – will become the backbone of our Next Generation Partnership.

5. Going forward, ensuring economic security has become particularly important. As like-minded countries, our cooperation - for building resilient supply chains, on critical minerals and rare earth, on technology – will pave the path for de-risking our own economies and the international economy itself. We can leverage our strengths, invest and work together in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, clean energy and space.

6. The new investment target of 10 trillion yen is noteworthy as it raises the level of our ambition. Japan remains one of India's most trusted economic partners, with cumulative FDI of over US\$45 billion. JBIC has ranked India the most promising overseas destination for the 15th consecutive year in the long term and JETRO has noted that nearly 80% of Japanese companies in India are profitable, and over 80% plan to expand. This is an endorsement of India's Growth Story – as a country poised to be the third largest economy soon. Moreover, with reforms—across taxation, logistics, insolvency resolution, digital governance, and infrastructure—India is continuously improving predictability and ease of doing business for global investors. While more than 40% of Japanese investment is already in manufacturing, I believe there is significant potential for further strengthening our economic partnership, including with an eye on our economic security goals.

7. I also expect that a deepening of the people-to-people relationship between India and Japan, emerging from the Action Plan for Human Resource Cooperation and Exchange, will serve our two societies well. A young, talented and skilled India complements Japan and its requirements very well.

8. The world in general, and not only the Indo-Pacific, is undergoing upheaval. Profound changes are afoot. It is sometimes difficult to predict what will be the realignments in our region. We observe that the United States' attention and resources are getting redirected closer home – an understandable

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development given the scale of the illegal immigration that the country has been subject to. New trade flows in new vectors will open up with the many new preferential trading arrangements that have fallen into place over the last 10 years, and even more significantly over the last 1 year. What realignments among states in the region will these developments result in? These are interesting avenues for speculation. Through all the ups and downs ahead, I think I can say that India will remain Japan's steadfast and true friend.

Thank you.
