

**Remarks by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at Luncheon at
Yamaguchi
10 December 2025**

- H.E. Mr. Tsugumasa Muraoka, Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture
 - H.E. Mr. Shungaku Yanai, Speaker of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Assembly
 - H.E. Mr. Kenji Niki, Chairman, India-ASEAN Regional Friendship and Economic Exchange Promotion League
 - H.E. Mr. Mr. Kenjiro Nishimoto, Vice Chairman, India-ASEAN Regional Friendship and Economic Exchange Promotion League
 - H.E. Mr. Shinji Sakamoto, Secretary General, India-ASEAN Regional Friendship and Economic Exchange Promotion League
- It is a great pleasure and honour to visit Yamaguchi today. I sincerely thank you for the warm welcome and for the opportunity to continue our meaningful dialogue.
 - India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership based on trust, shared values, and a common vision for peace and economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. As our partnership grows, the role of Japanese prefectures such as Yamaguchi becomes increasingly important.
 - I am pleased to note the positive momentum already built through previous engagements, including my predecessor's visit in May 2024. During that visit, several promising avenues of cooperation were identified such as business interactions, SME partnerships, and efforts to create an India-focused assembly group. I appreciate the continued initiative shown by Yamaguchi in pursuing these ideas.
 - Yamaguchi Prefecture has unique strengths strong SMEs, vibrant industrial networks, advanced materials expertise, maritime connectivity, and a strong academic environment. India, with its rapidly growing market, technology strengths, and startup ecosystem, offers a complementary partner.
 - Second, institutional linkages: I would especially like to appreciate the presence of the India-ASEAN Regional Friendship and Economic Exchange Promotion League in the Prefectural Assembly and would want to follow up on the

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idea of setting up a Yamaguchi-India Friendship Group in the Assembly. This would create a valuable platform for regular dialogue and exchange.

- Third, academic cooperation: I am pleased that Yamaguchi University enjoys active academic ties with Indian institutions, particularly the University of Calcutta and NIT Kurukshetra. These partnerships open doors for student exchanges, joint research, and increased faculty interaction. We will be happy to support new collaborative initiatives between our universities.
- Fourth, people-to-people exchanges: Cultural activities, student mobility, and youth interaction are vital for creating long-term understanding. We would also be glad to organise a “**Yamaguchi Day**” at the Embassy to bring businesses, academia, and cultural stakeholders together.
- Finally, supply-chain and technology collaboration: In sectors such as clean energy, circular economy, and manufacturing technology, India and Yamaguchi have much to explore together.
- Embassy of India stands ready to support all these initiatives and facilitate direct linkages with Indian government bodies, state governments, industries, and universities.
- Excellencies, we deeply value our friendship with Yamaguchi Prefecture. I look forward to working closely with you to translate today’s discussions into practical outcomes that benefit both sides. Thank you once again for your hospitality and warm reception.
