

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at ICFAST 2026
February 14, 2026**

**Prof Takaki Kajita, Nobel Laureate 2015 in Physics, University of Tokyo
Mr. B V R Mohan Reddy, Chairman BOG, IIT Hyderabad
Prof. Yujin Yaguchi, Vice President, University of Tokyo
Mr. Shiota Tsuyoshi, Executive Director, JSPS
Mr. Ito Sotaro, Deputy Director, Sakura Science Program, JST
Prof Shakti Kumar, President IJSSTE and Host
Distinguished Presidents and Vice Presidents of our partner universities
both from India and Japan,
Dear colleagues, young researchers and students,**

It is a great pleasure and privilege to join you for ICFAST TOKYO 2026 here at UTokyo, for a special India-Japan Science and Technology Seminar commemorating 40 years of formal S&T cooperation between our two countries. It is apt that this seminar takes place at a time when we are celebrating this year as the India-Japan Year of Science, Technology and Innovation Exchange.

2. India's rapid ascent in research, innovation, and global rankings is no coincidence. It reflects transformative policies, dynamic talent, and a national vision that places science at the core of our progress. Japan, with its tradition of precision, creativity, and perseverance, remains an indispensable and trusted partner in this journey and India's ambitious resolve of Vikshit Bharat by 2047. Together, we represent a partnership that bridges youth and experience, emerging opportunity and established excellence.

3. S&T Collaboration forms one of the strongest pillars of our bilateral partnership spanning areas including fundamental science, advanced engineering, health, digital technologies, and space. Today, we don't simply celebrate past achievements; we are defining the contours of the next-generation India-Japan S&T partnership.

4. I note that the program for this seminar over the next two days reflects this evolution vividly - from cosmic ray physics and ocean thermal energy conversion to AI-enabled diagnostics, biomaterials, climate prediction, and quantum-inspired ideas. The presence of Nobel Laureate Prof. Kajita and industry leader Mr. Mohan Reddy as keynote speakers symbolizes the continuum from lab to market,

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showcasing how fundamental discoveries and innovation-driven entrepreneurship reinforce each other.

5. I am pleased to note that many sub themes resonates strongly with the outcomes of the India-Japan Annual Summit held in August 2025, which placed partnering in science technology and innovation that are under discussion today at the center of our bilateral engagement. Equally important are the new directions identified at the Summit: an India-Japan ICT Cooperation Framework; enhanced collaboration in space research, including through the Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) Mission; and expanded linkages between private enterprises and startups in the space sector and many more.

6. India's participation in projects such as Belle II and the establishment of the Indian Beamline at KEK embody our shared commitment to building world-class research infrastructure that benefits not only our two nations but the global scientific community.

7. The DST-JSPS frameworks support numerous joint research projects and seminars each year. India's VAIBHAV Fellowship, Japan's MEXT Scholarships, and JST's Sakura Science and LOTUS initiatives are opening new doors for young researchers to learn from each other and co-create solutions. These are now complemented by an expanding network of university partnerships, joint degree programs, and thematic collaborations in number of emerging sectors.

8. At the Embassy of India in Tokyo, promoting science and technology cooperation has always been at the heart of our work. We view S&T not just as an academic engagement but as a strategic investment in our shared future; one that combines India's scale and talent with Japan's technological strength and innovation-driven ecosystem. I look forward to further conversation on how to strengthen the important aspects of our partnership.

9. With these thoughts, it is my great pleasure to inaugurate the India-Japan S&T Seminar at ICFAST TOKYO 2026. I once gain wish you very productive discussions, inspiring interactions, and many new friendships and collaborations.

Thank you
