

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the Launch of India-Japan  
Governors' Network  
16 February 2026**

YE Mr. Kotaro Nagasaki, Governor of Yamanashi,  
YE Mr. Shinji Hirai, Governor of Tottori,  
YE Mr. Sho Hiraki, Vice-Governor of Shizuoka  
YE Mr. Yuichi Kurahori, Vice-Governor of Toyama  
YE Mr. Jun Sasaki, Vice-Governor of Iwate,  
YE Mr. Norimitsu Kobayashi, Vice-Governor of Miyagi,  
YE Mr. Junichi Ishidera, Vice-Governor of Yamanashi,  
Members of the National Diet,  
Speakers and members of Legislative assembly, local governments,  
Representatives of Nagano, Aichi, Kagawa, Niigata prefectures  
Distinguished guests, Friends,

I am delighted to address such a distinguished audience and on such an important occasion, the launch of the India-Japan Governors' Network.

India & Japan have a strong Special Strategic and Global Partnership, since 2014. The partnership covers all sectors from defense to economy, culture to people-to-people cooperation.

The relationship between Indian states and Japanese prefectures is especially important for our economic and people-to-people cooperation.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on his visit to Japan in August 2025 recognized 'State-Prefecture' cooperation as a key pillar of our Next Generation Partnership.

Prime Minister had met 16 Governors from Japanese Prefectures when he visited Japan last year.

There are intense and productive exchanges between Indian states and Japanese prefectures also. Chief Ministers of 8 Indian states visited Japan last year. Happy that the Governors of Yamanashi, Ibaraki, Shizuoka, Toyama, Kagawa and Ehime Prefectures visited India in 2024–2025. The ties between

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Yamanashi & Uttar Pradesh, Shizuoka & Gujarat, Toyama & Andhra Pradesh, are notable.

Embassy of India is delighted to support the formation of the India-Japan Governors' Network.

I thank Governor Nagasaki in particular for his sustained efforts to bring this initiative to fruition. I also thank Governor Hirai of Tottori for his valued presence today.

The India-Japan relationship is one of mutual benefit. Our economies and our demography are complementary and this augurs well for the future.

India considers Japan one of its most trusted partners. Gratified that Japan, especially JBIC, continues to rank India as the most promising overseas destination (for the 15th consecutive year).

### Manufacturing, Technology, Indian market:

While Japan has its strengths in manufacturing and technology, India provides scale, talent and a market like no other.

The story of India's economic growth needs no introduction. India is projected to grow at 7.4% in FY 2025-2026, supported by stable governance, policy continuity, and strong domestic demand. The ease of doing business is improving constantly due to the reforms being undertaken. As Prime Minister Modi says, "India has boarded the Reform Express."

Our cooperation in economic security and de-risking our economies has great potential to meet the needs of our peoples.

We recognise that Japanese prefectures are the key drivers of Japanese economy – with their strengths in manufacturing, technology, with their SMEs. Their partnership with Indian states with similar or complementary strengths can forge long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

### Human resource cooperation:

For the Japanese economy that is facing a shortage of skilled labor, India can provide talented and skilled people. The Action Plan for Human Resource Exchange agreed to by our leadership in 2025 has created the ground for this exchange to mutual benefit.

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I hope that each prefecture becomes the gateway to a state in India for other prefectures in its region. I hope that Indian states can also find a gateway to Japan through the partner prefectures in this network.

I congratulate the founders of this network and look forward to close cooperation.

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