

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the
India-Japan Collaboration in Digital Public Infrastructure event
December 16, 2025**

- Mr. Takayuki Sato, Director, Artificial Intelligence Office, Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
- Mr. Amit Shukla, Joint Secretary (Cyber Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- Mr. Sanjay Anandaram, Ambassador of iSPIRT Foundation
- Distinguished guests & dear friends,

Today, I am excited to speak about a topic that carries immense immense potential in the India-Japan bilateral partnership — the collaboration in Digital Public Infrastructure, or DPI.

2. As you would all know, in recent years, India has emerged as a global leader in creating scalable, secure, and citizen-centric digital platforms. Systems such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and DigiLocker have transformed the daily lives of more than a billion people. Japan, on the other hand, brings to the table its exceptional strengths in technology, precision engineering, cybersecurity, and human-centric digital design. When these two visions come together, the result is not merely cooperation—it is co-creation of a digital future that is open, reliable, and equitable.

3. At the heart of this collaboration lies a shared belief: technology must empower people. India's population-scale digital systems demonstrate how open digital networks can enhance financial inclusion, improve governance, and accelerate innovation. Japan sees great potential in adapting and co-developing such frameworks to meet its own societal needs—from digital identity to seamless payments and next-generation public services.

4. Beyond national benefits, this partnership has a global dimension. India and Japan are working together to promote trusted, interoperable digital public infrastructure not only in the Indo-Pacific region but across the globe. By combining India's experience in building digital platforms at scale with Japan's technological expertise, both countries can support emerging economies and the Global South in adopting resilient digital ecosystems that foster entrepreneurship,

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transparency, and economic growth. Further, our cooperation ensures that DPI systems remain secure, privacy-preserving, and resilient.

5. Friends, during the recently held India-Japan Annual Leaders Summit, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation upgrading their digital cooperation framework — the “Digital Partnership 2.0.” The new agreement now explicitly includes: semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and digital public infrastructure (DPI) as core areas. The aim here is not only short-term projects but building a long-term “joint vision” for digital and industrial transformation — combining public policy, infrastructure, innovation, and private-sector engagement.

6. The event here today is one among the many that our Embassy is undertaking to foster this vision. iSPIRT, Indian Software Product Industry Round Table, which is our main partner today, is an apt example of such government-industry collaboration. Their role in India Stack, collaboration with international community to better adapt DPI and nurturing of India's digital ecosystem is worth highlighting. The panel session later today will help our audience to better understand this aspect.

7. I am confident that India-Japan collaborations in this sector will help nurture a new generation of innovators and encourage young entrepreneurs and engineers in the future to build solutions that address real-world challenges — ranging from digital healthcare and smart mobility to sustainable urban development.

8. I thank all of you for joining us today and look forward to the discussion among the panelists.

Thank you.
