

**Remarks by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the event:
India-Japan Partnership: Iwate
(19 December 2025)**

**H.E. Mr. TASSO Takuya, Governor, Iwate Prefecture,
H.E. Mr. SASAKI Jun, Vice Governor, Iwate Prefecture,
H.E. Mr. SASAKI Tsutomu, Vice Speaker, Iwate Prefecture,
Hon'ble Members of Parliament,
Excellencies, distinguished guests, members of the business community,
and friends of India in Japan,**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Embassy of India as we highlight the opportunities for cooperation and partnership between India and Iwate Prefecture.

This is my first "Prefecture Day" engagement at the Embassy after taking charge as the Ambassador-designate of India to Japan, and I am glad that I am beginning this journey with Iwate – the second largest Prefecture in Japan and known for its resilience, innovation and its strength in manufacturing.

Personally, I am particularly delighted that there is a strong connection between the official residence of the Indian Ambassador in Tokyo and Iwate Prefecture. The residence where I stay today used to belong to the Nanbu family who, at one point of time, ruled over lands that are now part of Iwate.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

India is today one of the fastest growing major economies in the world. We are one of the youngest countries in the world, with a talented pool of skilled workers. Today, India is a nation that is filled with dynamism and hungry for growth and development.

India and Japan have a partnership rooted in shared values and a shared vision for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific. The Special Strategic and Global Partnership that we have is time-tested and is nurtured through attention given at the highest levels of our leadership. This relationship covers a wide spectrum of areas of cooperation – from trade and economy, to defence and

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security; from semiconductors and artificial intelligence, to culture and people-to-people ties.

We firmly believe that the true potential of our bilateral ties comes not just from the Capitals but by going beyond New Delhi and Tokyo. With this in mind, when our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi visited Japan in August, a renewed push was given for India and Japan to achieve a “Next Generation State-Prefecture Partnership” to give an impetus to trade, technology, tourism, skills, security and cultural linkages between our two countries.

The Governor of Iwate, H.E. Mr. TASSO was present in the interaction between our Prime Minister and Governors of 16 Prefectures of Japan, and was a witness to the importance that our leadership places on strengthening ties with Japanese Prefectures.

Excellencies,

Iwate has a strong base in advanced manufacturing, precision engineering, materials sciences, ICT, robotics, agriculture and fisheries. The Prefecture has also made advances in disaster-resilient infrastructure and renewable energy.

These are precisely some of the areas where India is also keen to collaborate with Japan. I understand that Vice Governor Mr. SASAKI Jun had led a delegation to India (Gujarat) in September this year where he held fruitful conversations on potential opportunities in the semiconductor sector and explored possibilities for university-to-university collaboration.

In the next two hours, we have a rich programme ahead of us where we could find avenues for cooperation in investment, semiconductors, science and technology, and academic exchanges. I am also looking forward to watching the display of cultural performances from Iwate and India.

I would like to thank the leadership and the people of Iwate Prefecture, as well as our Japanese friends who have contributed to making this event today a reality. I am confident that today’s event will be the stepping stone for strengthened ties between India and Iwate in the future.

I thank you.
