

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at Hanami reception
25 March 2026**

H.E. Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications,
H.E. Mr. Minoru Kiuchi, Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy, Minister
of State for Regulatory Reform
Distinguished guests, Friends,

Konichiwa.

I am delighted that you could join us today for our Hanami reception. The advent of spring is a joyous occasion anywhere. But more so here in Japan where the sakura paints the landscape in pink. It is a moment for friendship and renewing bonds.

India and Japan, share a deep-rooted friendship based on mutual trust, shared values and heritage. We have many complementarities and commonalities that bind us together. Buddhist tradition and values for example, permeates our societies. Daruma that Japan is familiar with is a representation of an Indian monk. What is more, you would be interested to know, that the Indian cherry blossoms, especially in the North-East of India, are gaining in popularity.

Today, amidst the uncertainties facing us, the salience of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership has only increased. As reliable partners, India and Japan can navigate the complex challenges of today – be it in the strategic, geopolitical space or in the sphere of economy or economic security.

On the economic front, both our sides recognize the tremendous potential that exists – be it investment potential, trade and commerce or people-to-people cooperation. It is reflected in the target set by our leadership during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Japan in August 2025– a target of \$10 trillion yen private investment to India. Repeated JBIC surveys attest to the interest Japanese companies have in India. The growing Indian economy offers many opportunities and so does the large Indian domestic market. Today when economic security is coming more and more into focus, we can also work closely together in advanced technologies like AI, in the semiconductor space, clean energy, etc.

Check Against Delivery

The Indian people are our biggest assets. The large pool of skilled Indians can fulfil the significant demand in Japan. Recognizing this, the India-Japan Action Plan for Human Resource Cooperation has set the goal of bringing 50,000 skilled personnel and potential talent from India to Japan.

Friends, Hanami is not only about appreciating beauty, but also a moment to reflect on the ephemeral nature of things. The longstanding bond between our countries and our people, stand in stark contrast. We can appreciate it better in days such as this.

Friends, once again, I thank you for coming today. I hope to work with all of you to strengthen the India-Japan relationship further. And deepen our friendship.

Thank you.
