

**Address by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick
at the Seminar “India-Japan Next Generation Digital Partnership:
Transforming Payments Beyond Borders” on 25 November 2025**

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Mr. Takeo Ueno, Chief Executive Officer, NTT Data Payment Services India
Distinguished guests and friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to this Seminar “**India-Japan Next Generation Digital Partnership: Transforming Payments Beyond Borders**” being organized today at the Embassy to celebrate India-Japan Digital Partnership.

India and Japan share a bond that transcends centuries—a tapestry woven from shared values of democracy, innovation, and mutual respect. From the ancient silk routes that connected our civilizations to the modern corridors of technology that link our economies today, our partnership has always been about building bridges. Therefore, it is fitting that we turn our gaze to the digital frontier. Payments, once confined to ledgers and counters, are now the lifeblood of a connected world. And in this realm, India and Japan are not just participants; we are pioneers.

Consider this: India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized financial inclusion through digital payments and enabling secure, instantaneous transactions at an unprecedented scale. The scale of UPI’s rise is staggering. In August 2025, the system processed more than 20 billion transactions worth over ₹24.85 lakh crore. What began as an Indian innovation is today crossing borders through meaningful partnerships. In Singapore, UPI has been linked with PayNow to enable instant cross-border transfers. In the UAE and Mauritius, Indian

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travellers can pay for goods and services using UPI. In France, Indian tourists can now pay at the Eiffel Tower by simply scanning a QR code and settling the bill in rupees. Nepal and Bhutan have already adopted UPI for transfers, and discussions are ongoing with central banks and fintech companies across Asia, Africa, and Europe. This is a quiet but profound transformation, reflecting India's commitment to creating a globally interconnected, efficient, and inclusive digital payments ecosystem.

Friends,

During the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, for the Annual Summit in Japan in August this year, an MoU on the India–Japan Digital Partnership 2.0 was signed. This MoU encompasses collaboration across digital public infrastructure, the semiconductor ecosystem, artificial intelligence, digital corporate partnerships, digital talent, R&D cooperation, start-up collaboration, and the security of future networks.

I am glad to note that, immediately after the Summit, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and NTT Data signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance across NTT Data's merchant network in Japan, which is a significant milestone in deepening digital and financial cooperation between our two countries. This initiative closely aligns with the vision articulated in the India–Japan Digital Partnership 2.0 and reaffirms our collective resolve to elevate digital cooperation to the next level.

Japan, with its unmatched technological leadership and trusted digital infrastructure, is a natural and valued partner in this journey. The partnership between NIPL and NTT Data is a powerful demonstration of how both countries can combine their strengths to drive innovation, enhance user convenience, and support global digital public infrastructure.

AI's role in digital payments is especially significant for both our countries. For India, AI is a national priority under the IndiaAI Mission, aimed at building large-scale compute capacity, developing talent, ensuring datasets and governance frameworks, and supporting AI-driven innovation across sectors. Japan's leadership in robotics, hardware, advanced computing, and safety technologies complements these efforts perfectly. Together, India and Japan can lead the development of trustworthy AI for digital payments that is secure, efficient, and people-centric.

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With UPI acceptance becoming a reality at NTT's merchant locations in Japan, we will witness enhanced convenience for Indian travellers, new business opportunities for merchants, and deeper interoperability between the financial systems of both nations. More importantly, this initiative contributes to building a future-ready digital corridor between India and Japan—one that reflects shared values, mutual respect, and a commitment to harnessing technology for public good.

As we look ahead, this collaboration symbolizes the enduring bond between our two nations and reinforces our shared aspiration to shape a digitally empowered future. I would like to conclude by thanking all our speakers for joining us — whether virtually or in person. Your contributions will help advance a shared vision of a digital future that is secure, innovative, inclusive, and truly global.

I once again thank all of you for joining us here today.

Thank you
