

Samy begins special envoy duties
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S Samy Vellu, who assumed duties as Malaysia's special envoy with ministerial rank on infrastructure to India and South Asia on Saturday, will begin his tour of duty on Thursday starting with New Delhi.

The former MIC president will be leading a 150-strong Malaysian Indian delegation to the ninth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, an annual conference that brings together people of Indian origin from throughout the world, according to a statement from his office in Kuala Lumpur today.

The former works minister is scheduled to hold talks with high-ranking Indian government officials on the sidelines of the four-day conference in New Delhi to prepare the ground to open up more opportunities for Malaysian businessmen to venture into India, the statement said.

The conference, to be officially opened by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday, will also see participation by key Indian cabinet ministers, including Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Road Transport and Highways Minister Kamal Nath, who is responsible for infrastructure projects in India.

Samy Vellu, who stepped down last month after 31 years as MIC president, was appointed the special envoy by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to tap Samy Vellu's experience in clinching billions of ringgit worth of projects for Malaysian companies during his tenure as works minister.

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