

PM's visit to India can strengthen bilateral relations

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Bernama

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's official visit to India from today to Aug 21 will further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries which were established in 1957.

Malaysian High Commissioner to India Muzafar Shah Mustafa said in conjunction with the visit, Malaysia and India will sign seven memorandums of understanding covering cooperation in the fields of digital, tourism, health, workforce, public administration, and traditional Ayurveda medicine.

“This visit is also expected to open opportunities for cooperation in the field of renewable energy and electric vehicles, where India has advantages.

“In addition, India hopes to strengthen cooperation in the semiconductor industry with Malaysia,” he told Malaysian reporters in New Delhi yesterday.

Muzafar said one of the focuses of discussion between Anwar and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be Malaysia's participation in Brics (Brazil,

Russia, India, China, and South Africa), which is seen to be in line with India's efforts to strengthen its role in the international arena.

Asean relations

The meeting between Anwar and the Indian president is also expected to touch on issues in the Indo-Pacific region, especially as Malaysia prepares to take over as Asean chair in 2025.

Apart from Malaysia, India is also seen as prioritising its relations with the Asean region and is committed to strengthening relations with Asean member countries in line with India's Act East Policy.

Muzafar said India's desire to open an offshore campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Malaysia is also expected to be discussed.

Anwar is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi around 9.40pm local time (12.10 midnight Aug 20 Malaysian time) to start the three-day official visit.

The official ceremony for Anwar's visit will be held at the grounds of the official residence of the president of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Gandhi Memorial at the Raj Ghat Memorial Complex.

Anwar is then scheduled to receive a courtesy call from India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, followed by a closed-door meeting with Modi.

Anwar will also deliver a speech themed “Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging on Malaysia-India Ties” on the afternoon of Aug 20.

The prime minister's visit to India is accompanied by Human Resources Minister Steven Sim; Tourism, Culture and Arts Minister Tiong King Sing and Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan.

Also participating in the visit are Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo; Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Public Services director-general Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

India-Malaysia bilateral trade is worth over US\$20 billion (RM88 billion) in 2023-2024 and is projected to reach US\$30 billion by 2025.

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