

Anwar: Let's learn from India's digital penetration success

JAKARTA: India has experienced great success in its digital penetration, and this is one of its many skills that Asean and the world can learn from, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said India, which sent a spacecraft to the Moon recently, was emerging with technical advancements that were the envy of many while making strides in rural connectivity.

“Your phenomenal success in digital penetration, which is seen even in the rural heartland, is something we must share, and in particular, your success in the very complex digital banking sector.

“And I think although it is not

summarised in the initial Asean proposal, I certainly feel this is one issue India needs to explore and contribute to our (Asean's) success.”

He said this in a speech at the 20th Asean-India Summit, which included the attendance of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

He said India was seen as among the Asian countries that was successful in food security, even amid climate change challenges.

Anwar said: “We believe Asean can leverage India's expertise in agriculture to harness cooperation in smart agriculture practices.

“Asean and India have to cooperate to develop a more proactive agenda that promotes inclusive and sustainable growth, and deepen collaboration in renewable energy, water management, as well as forest biodiversity conservation.”

He said in terms of economic cooperation between Asean and India, he welcomed the progress of the review and efforts made towards the conclusion of the Asean-India Trade in Goods Agreement in 2025 so that the bloc could harness the potential of economic relations.

On geopolitical conflicts, Anwar said Asean and India should continue to use their friendly re-

lations with each other to encourage dialogues, cooperation and peaceful coexistence in various matters, including the South China Sea.

He congratulated India for its lunar landing and for being the host of the G20 Summit starting tomorrow.

“Prime Minister Modi, you come at a very critical time.

“You are hosting the very important G20 summit, and we wish you well and we have full confidence in your leadership and the capacity of India to become a great host for such a wonderful event.

“I want to take this opportunity to congratulate India for the remarkable success and historic

landing of its spacecraft on the moon.”

On Aug 23, India made history after its spacecraft in its moon mission touched down in a soft landing, becoming the first country to have landed on the moon's south pole.

Anwar said that as part of Asean and as part of a bigger Asian family, it considered India as a partner with which it had deep historic ties.

“We are always proud of being part of the Asian venture and Asean.

“What is important for me to stress, as prime minister, is that Asean and Malaysia have always considered India historically as a very important strategic ally.”