

3-DAY TRIP

PM TO MEET MODI, BUSINESS LEADERS

Official welcome ceremony at Indian president's residence in New Delhi



NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has a packed schedule in his three-day official visit to India, featuring sessions with corporate leaders, delivering a lecture as well as a meeting with his counterpart, Narendra Modi.

Malaysian High Commissioner to India Datuk Muzaffar Shah Mustafa said the prime minister was expected to touch down at the Air Force Station in Palam, here, at 9.40pm yesterday local time (12.10am today Malaysian time) to begin his visit.

On the first day, he is scheduled to have meetings with three Indian companies, namely Tata Consultancy Services, Emami Agrotech Ltd and HCLTech.

The meeting will also be attended by representatives from the Human Resources Ministry, Digital Ministry and the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry.

On his second day, Anwar will be accorded an official welcome ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the Indian president here.

He will then proceed to lay a wreath as a mark of respect at the Gandhi Memorial at the Raj Ghat Memorial Complex.

He is then scheduled to receive an official visit by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaisankar Prasad. This will be followed by a restricted meeting with Modi.

Anwar is also slated to witness the signing of several memoranda of understanding (MoU) in-

volving both countries.

He will then deliver a lecture titled "Towards A Rising Global South: Leveraging Malaysia-India Ties" at the Indian Council of World Affairs' (ICWA) Sapru House.

Accompanying the prime minister on his visit to India are Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Steven Sim; Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing; Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan; Digital Minister Gobind Singh; and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz.

Modi's first official visit to Malaysia was on Nov 23, 2015, when Datuk Seri Najib Razak was prime minister.

During his visit then, Modi and Najib, to symbolise the ties between Malaysia and India, had officiated at the Torana Gate in Little India, Brickfields. The gate was a present from the Indian government to Malaysia.

Three years later, Modi, en route to Singapore, stopped by Malaysia to congratulate Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad after Pakatan Harapan won the 14th General Election.

TRADE TIES



- Malaysia and India have, since April last year, agreed to settle trade in Indian rupees, marking a shift in de-dollarisation among the two countries. Besides the usage of the rupee in trade activities, the previous currencies used in bilateral trade were still applicable.
- Bilateral trade between the countries as of fiscal year 2022-2023 (April-March) stood at US\$20 billion (RM88.64 billion).
- HH Healthcare Malaysia are major investors in hospitals in India while Petronas also has key projects in India's energy sector. Malaysian companies also manage several highway projects and major airports in India.
- India's exports to Malaysia include mineral fuels, mineral oil, aluminium, meat and edible meat offal, organic chemicals, iron and steel, boilers, copper, electrical machinery and equipment, machinery and mechanical appliances.
- India's Act East Policy has seen it prioritising its relations with Asean members. The meeting between Anwar and Modi is expected to see the leaders discuss their vision for the Indo-Pacific region, especially with Malaysia preparing to assume the Asean chair in 2025.

