

# PM's India visit set to further boost ties

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to India will strengthen longstanding cooperation between the two nations, economic ties and cooperative initiatives, said Deputy Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Minister Datuk R. Ramanan.

He expressed optimism about the potential outcome of the visit, citing the strong relationship between Anwar and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India has a long history of cooperation with Malaysia, and one of the main aspects of this relationship is our collaborative initiatives."

He said with Anwar's strong relationship not only with Modi but also India itself, Malaysia would be able to carve out something very good economically.

He was speaking after the *Swarna Samaroha* Special Odissi performance at the

Temple of Fine Arts Shantanand Auditorium in Brickfields on Wednesday.

Ramanan highlighted India's pivotal role in the cooperative sector and its contributions to skills training and human capital development, which closely align with his ministry's mission.

He said last year, trade between the two countries reached significant milestones, registering an overall trade amount of US\$43.3 billion (RM192 billion).

Malaysia's exports to India were worth US\$26.3 billion (RM117 billion) with major exports being palm oil and electronics, while imports primarily comprised petroleum and agricultural products.

"Malaysia is India's third-largest trading partner in Asean and the 11th-largest globally.

"Malaysia has set a target to reach US\$100 billion (RM443.6 billion) in trade with India by

2030. Of course it's a very long way before we achieve that, but we have to set such a goal."

Anwar is set to make his first official visit to India from Aug 19-20, Bernama reported.

It is anticipated that several agreements between the two countries will be signed.

India's High Commissioner to Malaysia B. N. Reddy, who was also present at the event, emphasised the significance of the upcoming meeting between the two leaders.

He expressed confidence in the success of the visit, highlighting the extensive planning undertaken by both governments for it.

Reddy said a strong Malaysian delegation, which includes five Cabinet ministers, underscores the visit's importance.

The Odissi performance, organised by the Indian High Commission and the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre, featured a performance by a visiting troupe.