

Seven MoUs to be inked during PM's India visit

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's official visit to India from yesterday until tomorrow will further strengthen bilateral relations established in 1957, said Malaysian High Commissioner to India Datuk Muzafar Shah Mustafa.

He said Malaysia and India would sign seven MoUs covering cooperation in the fields of digital, tourism, health, workforce, public administration and traditional Ayurvedic medicine.

"This visit is also expected to open opportunities for cooperation in the field of renewable energy and electric vehicles, in which India has advantages," he told Malaysian reporters here.

He said another area in which India hopes to strengthen cooperation is Malaysia's semiconductor industry.

Muzafar Shah said the focus of discussion between Anwar and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be regarding Malaysia's

participation in BRICS, which is seen to be in line with India's efforts to bolster its role in the international arena.

He added that the meeting is also expected to cover issues in the Indo-Pacific region, especially as Malaysia prepares to take over the Asean chair next year.

He said India is also seen as prioritising its relations with nations in the Asean region and is committed to strengthening relations with Asean member countries, in line with the country's Act East Policy.

Muzafar said India's desire to open an offshore campus of the Indian Institute of Technology in Malaysia is also expected to be discussed during the meeting between the two leaders.

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

Ghat Memorial Complex.

He 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 today themed "Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging on Malaysia-India Ties".

He is being accompanied by Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Steven Sim, Tourism, Culture and Arts Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

Others in the delegation are Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Public Services Director-General Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

India-Malaysia bilateral trade is projected to reach US\$30 billion (RM133 billion) by 2025.

- Bernama