

## Malaysia, India agree to elevate ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

**NEW DELHI:** Malaysia and India have agreed to elevate their relationship from an Enhanced Strategic Partnership (ESP) to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who is on a three-day official visit to India since Monday, said the mutual decision to enhance the relationship to CSP marked a significant step forward.

He acknowledged the long-standing ties between Malaysia and India, tracing back to the days of their respective first prime ministers - Tunku Abdul Rahman and Jawaharlal Nehru - and stressed the importance of further strengthening these relations across multiple areas.

Anwar highlighted sectors such as digital investments, trade, construction, agriculture, education, research and military collaboration, including joint operations to safeguard borders as some of the areas.

He was speaking at a joint media conference with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House here yesterday.

The status of the Malaysia-India bilateral relationship was elevated to ESP in 2015 during Modi's visit to Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Anwar expressed gratitude to Modi and the Indian government for their warm hospitality and affirmed that Malaysia considers India a "great and true friend"

He said his discussions with Modi, both in

bilateral meetings and private conversations, were open and frank, covering all issues, including sensitive ones, reflecting the true meaning of friendship.

"We have established an understanding on a number of issues."

While expressing regret that there had not been progress in recent years, Anwar emphasised the potential for greater collaboration, and gave an assurance that Malaysia would remain committed to reinvigorating working relations in all fields.

Anwar also praised India's rich history, culture and civilisation, drawing parallels with Malaysia's own multicultural and multireligious society.

He noted that the commonalities between the two nations extend beyond trade and investment, encompassing cultural vibrancy.

Anwar also mentioned new initiatives that would encourage further collaboration between Indian and Malaysian companies, particularly in challenging areas like energy transition, digitalisation and food security.

He highlighted the importance of cooperation in the semiconductor industry, in which Malaysia is recognised as a hub in Southeast Asia, and acknowledged India's achievements in the field.

On issues such as flights, visas and other areas of mutual concern, Anwar said a three-month time frame has been set to ensure swift action and progress. - Bernama



Anwar and Modi arriving for a closed-door meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC