

# PM concludes India visit with RM8b potential trade deals

**NEW DELHI:** Malaysia has obtained potential trade worth RM8 billion in palm oil and palm oil-based products, chemicals and chemical products, oil and gas as well as aircraft spare parts, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said investment commitments totalling RM4.5 billion were also secured from various sectors and companies in the South Asian nation during his visit.

Anwar, who concluded his three-day official visit to India on Wednesday, said total trade between Malaysia and India amounted to RM72.31 billion in 2023, and 168 investment projects were implemented up to March 2024, with 16,640 job opportunities expected to be created.

He said the latest visit to India also saw the signing of eight MoUs between the two governments and seven business-to-business MoUs.

> Investment commitments totalling RM4.5 billion also secured from various sectors, companies, seven business-to-business MoUs signed: Anwar

"I am grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inviting me for the official visit to India, which has been gratifying," he told the Malaysian media at the end of his visit.

On his meeting with Modi, he said both parties have agreed to boost comprehensive partnership in all areas, including digital, tourism, education, research and culture.

He also extended an invitation to the President of India Droupadi Murmu and Modi to visit Malaysia in order to increase bilateral trade momentum between the two nations.

Asked on Malaysia's application to join BRICS, Anwar said Modi agreed to support Malaysia's decision to join the group.

"At this time, it is still in the early stage of partnership. Direct participation will be finalised by country representatives during the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, in about two months."

On June 18, Anwar said he had expressed Malaysia's desire to join BRICS to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

BRICS was established in 2009 as a cooperative platform for emerging economies by Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with

South Africa joining in 2010 while Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates were admitted into the organisation in January 2024.

Anwar had said Malaysia would be a BRICS "partner country" first before full participation is finalised.

On the possibility of Malaysia extending the period of free visa granted to Indians, Anwar said Malaysia would give the facility if there is a similar response from the Indian government, Bernama reported.

He said the number of Indian tourists to Malaysia has reached almost 800,000 and the government hopes the figure would rise to one million.

Anwar also held a roundtable discussion with 31 companies and captains of industry from various sectors in India, including pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics, insulin production and logistics.