



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, on the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

MAHASAGAR VISION, ACT EAST POLICY

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MODI: MALAYSIA VITAL TO INDIA'S VISION

Indian PM, Anwar discuss trade, defence and peace

RIO DE JANEIRO

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Malaysia is a vital partner in India's Vision Mahasagar and Act East Policy.

Modi, in a post on X, said he met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit here.

Modi said they reviewed the progress in bilateral relations, including developments since Anwar's visit to India last year.

"Bilateral ties are growing strongly in futuristic sectors like IT, renewable energy and infrastructure.

"We also discussed how to improve investment and trade relations between our nations," Bernama reported him as saying.

He announced Vision Mahasagar, or "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions", for the Global South during his visit to Mauritius on March 12.

The Mahasagar vision builds on the Sagar (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policy that



HALIM MOHAMED

Modi announced during his 2015 visit to Mauritius.

Sagar has guided India's engagement with the Indian Ocean region over the past decade.

Anwar, after the meeting, said both leaders examined the potential for expanding cooperation in trade, investment, digital technology and defence.

"I also welcome the interest of Indian companies to invest in Malaysia's future-focused sectors, such as the digital economy, artificial intelligence, renewable energy and aerospace industry.

"We are equally committed to strengthening people-to-people ties through collaboration in culture, tourism and education, including the proposal to establish a campus of the Indian Institute of Technology in Malaysia," he said.

Putrajaya and New Delhi highlighted the importance of ensuring regional peace and stability, voicing support for fair and peaceful resolutions to issues such as

Palestine and Jammu-Kashmir.

Malaysia welcomed efforts to boost Asean-India relations ahead of the Asean-India Summit in October, in line with the spirit of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Malaysia is India's third-largest trading partner in Asean, with bilateral trade amounting to RM85.26 billion in 2023 and 2024, — about 17 per cent of India's total trade with the bloc.

Anwar arrived here on Saturday to attend the 17th BRICS Leaders' Summit hosted by Brazil.

Malaysia participated in the summit as a BRICS partner country and 2025 Asean chair.

The summit marks the first gathering of heads of state and government from BRICS member and partner countries.

The group, which serves as a political and diplomatic coordination forum for countries of the Global South, was initially established by Brazil, Russia, India and China.

It expanded with the inclusion of South Africa in 2011, followed by Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in 2023.

Indonesia became a full member in January this year, while 10 countries — Malaysia, Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Nigeria, Thailand, Vietnam, Uganda and Uzbekistan — were accepted as partner countries.