



High Commission of India Kuala Lumpur

INDIA-MALAYSIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

India established diplomatic relations with the Federation of Malaya (predecessor state of Malaysia) in 1957. In 2010, the bilateral ties were elevated to Strategic Partnership during visit of PM Manmohan Singh to Malaysia. India-Malaysia relations were elevated to Enhanced Strategic Partnership, during the visit of PM Shri Narendra Modi to Malaysia in November 2015. Malaysia hosts approximately 2.75 million PIOs, which is the second largest PIO community in the world after the US. Malaysia has the third largest Indian diaspora in the world (2.9 mn). **During the recent visit of PM Anwar Ibrahim to India on 19-21 August 2024, the India-Malaysia bilateral ties were elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership opening a new chapter in the relationship.**

High Level VVIP visits since 2010

- i. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Malaysia from 26-28 October 2010. Ties elevated to Strategic Partnership.
- ii. PM Shri Narendra Modi undertook an official visit to Malaysia on 23 November 2015 to participate in the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit. Joint Statement on Enhanced Strategic Partnership between India and Malaysia was issued.
- iii. PM Najib Razak visited India in March-April 2017 to mark the 60th anniversary of India-Malaysia diplomatic relations; and again on 25-26 January 2018 to participate in the 25th anniversary celebration of India-ASEAN diplomatic relations.
- iv. PM Shri Narendra Modi made a brief stopover in Malaysia on 31 May 2018 to congratulate newly elected Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad.
- v. **PM Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim** undertook a State visit to India from 19-21 August 2024 along with 5 Cabinet Ministers. Ties were elevated from Enhanced Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms

- i. Joint Commission Meeting (JCM): The 6th India Malaysia JCM co-chaired by Hon'ble EAM and Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia was held in New Delhi on 7 November 2023 after a gap of 12 years;
- ii. Foreign Office Consultations: The 5th Secretary Level Foreign Office Consultations was held on 12 April 2022 in Malaysia, after a gap of 7 years (in January 2015 in New Delhi);
- iii. India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM): The 13th MIDCOM took place on 19 February 2025 in Malaysia;
- iv. India-Malaysia Parliamentary Friendship Group: Was constituted in October 2011. Malaysia has constituted a Parliamentary Friendship Group on South Asia;
- v. **India-Malaysia CEOs' Forum:** Established in 2010, the 9th Meeting of the India-Malaysia CEO Forum was held on 19 August 2024 in New Delhi on the sidelines of the PM Anwar

Ibrahim to India. Apart from above there are Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Labor, on Higher Education, Renewable Energy, Public Administration and mechanism of Bilateral Technical Meeting (BTM) on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Medicine.

Recent Ministerial Level visits

- ▶ Visit of **Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Mohamad Sabu** in December 2022
- ▶ Visit of **Deputy Minister of Economy for Malaysia, Dato Hajjah Hanifah**, visited India for the India Energy Week (IEW) and Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER) in February 2023.
- ▶ Visit of **The Regent of Pahang HRH Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah** from 7-12 April 2023 for the Commemorative event marking 50 years of Project Tiger in India and the launch event of the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA).
- ▶ Working visit of **Human Resources Minister YB Sivakumar** from 31 March to 4 April 2023.
- ▶ Working Visit of **Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan** to Malaysia on May 31- June 2, 2023 on a working visit for the first ever PIO Day Malaysia organised by GOPIO.
- ▶ Visit of **Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh** paid an official visit to Malaysia from July 10 -11, 2023.
- ▶ Visit of **YB Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan, Deputy Minister of Tourism Arts and Culture** visited India from 14-26 August 2023 for Tourism Road Shows.
- ▶ Visit by **Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living H.E. Ms. Fuziah Salleh** visited India from 19-24 September 2023 on a Franchise Trade Mission.
- ▶ Visit of the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir** undertook his first official visit to India from 5-8 November 2023, to co-chair the 6th India Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting along with EAM Dr. S Jaishankar.
- ▶ Working Visit of **Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Education** to attend the inaugural GOPIO International Business Summit and Expo.
- ▶ Visit of **Deputy Minister of Trade and Investment H.E. Liew Chin Tong** visited India on a three day trip to take part in Raisina Dialogue 2024.
- ▶ Visit of **External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar** to Malaysia on 27-28 March 2024.
- ▶ Visit of **Plantation and Commodities Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani** from 16-19 July 2024.
- ▶ **Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Environment, Forest and Climate Change** visited Malaysia on an official visit from 14-16 September 2024

Bilateral Agreements

- MoU on **Defence Cooperation** (1993); Agreement on **Cooperation in Science and Technology** (1998); Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders (2001); MoU on **Employment and Welfare of Workers** (2009); MoU on Cooperation in the field of **Higher Education (2010)**; **Bilateral Extradition Treaty** (January 2010); MoU on cooperation in field of Tourism (2010); MoU on Cooperation in the field of **Traditional Systems of Medicine** (2010);
- Cooperation relating to provision of Technical Assistance Services on Highway Management & Development (2010); MoU on Cooperation in **IT & Services** (2010); Comprehensive Economic and Cooperation Agreement (**CECA**) (2011); Revised Agreement for the **Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA)** and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (2012);
- **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty** (2012); MoU on Cooperation in **Renewable Energy** (2012);
- MoU on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on **Custom Matters (2013)**; MoU on Cooperation in the field of **Public Administration and Governance** (2013); MoU on **Cyber Security** (2015); MoU on Cultural Exchange Program (2015); MoU between NITI AAYOG and PEMANDU (2015);
- MoU on Mutual Recognition of Educational Degrees and Certificates between AIU and MQA (2017); Exchange of Note Verbale on Mutual **Recognition of Vaccine Certificates** (2022); MoU between Prasar Bharti and Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) on **cooperation in broadcasting** (2023); Letter of Intent between Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) and Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) (2023);
- Exchange of Notes between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) and Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Malaysia on **cooperation in training of diplomats (2023)**; MoU on the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of workers (2024); MoU on Co-operation in the **field of Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine (2024)**; MoU on cooperation in the field of **Digital Technologies** (2024); Program on Cooperation in the field of **Culture, Arts and Heritage (2024)**; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism (2024); MoU on Cooperation in **Youth and Sports (2024)**; MoU on Cooperation in the field of **Public Administration and Governance Reforms (2024)**; MoU between International Financial Centre Services Authority (IFSCA) with Labuan Financial Services Authority in relation to mutual cooperation (2024) India-Malaysia Startup Alliance between Startup India and Cradle Fund of Malaysia

- Revised **Air Services Agreement** (2017); MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Sports (2017);
- MoU between Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), India (2017); Bilateral Work Agreement for Spouses at Diplomatic Missions/ Consulates (2017);

Bilateral Investments

As per official figures (DPIIT), **Malaysia ranks as the 31st largest investor in India with FDI inflow of US\$ 1.18 billion** during the period April 2000 to September 2023 (Source: DPIIT, GoI). Malaysian investments in India, including third party routes are estimated to be around US\$3.3 billion. Around 70 Malaysian companies, including joint ventures, have established operations in India, focusing on diverse sectors like infrastructure, healthcare, telecommunications, oil and gas, power plants, tourism, and human resources. The largest presence of Malaysian construction companies outside Malaysia is in India. According to Malaysia's Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), as on December 2016, Malaysian companies have completed 98 highway & road projects worth US \$4.64 billion in India. IJM alone has done over 1,500 km of road projects in India

Indian companies have invested in around 250 manufacturing projects of over US\$ 2.62 billion (RM 8.74 billion) in Malaysia which includes investment of RM 5.5 billion (approx. US\$ 1.37 billion) by around 135 Indian companies in the manufacturing sector creating over 15,000 jobs till December 2020. (Source: MIDA, GoM). Prominent Indian investors/projects include Biocon Malaysia, Recron Malaysia SdnBhd (owned by the Reliance group), UNZA Malaysia (owned by Wipro), Ranbaxy Malaysia, Melaka Manipal Medical College in Melaka and the Melaka International College in Nilai, among others. Veeda Clinical Research Organization, Ahmedabad has set up its advanced research unit at Ampang Hospital in Kuala Lumpur

Presently, there are more than 150 Indian companies, including 61 Indian joint ventures and 3 Indian Public Sector Undertakings operating in Malaysia. Indian Landmark group operates 15 stores in Malaysia under the brand name Max fashion. IRCON started its operation in Malaysia in the year 1988, and till date has commissioned 15 projects involving **580 km of track rehabilitation and about 298 km of new lines**. Indian IT firms began venturing into Malaysia from 1990s. Over the last three decades, the number of companies grew to over 100 in number generating an annual average revenue of US\$260 million. The cumulative investments are over of over US\$250 million in Malaysia. The top IT/ITES companies in Malaysia are: Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Ramcosystems, WIPRO Limited etc

Economic & Commercial relations

Economic and commercial engagement has become one the important pillars of India-Malaysia Enhanced Strategic Partnership. Malaysia is India's 3rd largest trading partner in ASEAN. A bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering goods, services and investment came into effect from 1 July 2011. ASEAN- India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) came into force in January 2010 while ASEAN-India Agreements on Trade in Services & Investment is operational since July 2015. The AITIGA review is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed by 2025. **India's primary exports to Malaysia** consist of mineral fuels, mineral oils, aluminum and related articles, meat and edible meat offal, iron and steel, copper and related articles, organic chemicals, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical machinery and equipment, and more. **India's major import items from Malaysia** are palm oil, mineral fuels, mineral oils, electrical machinery and equipment; animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; copper and articles thereof, wood; wood charcoal, aluminium, organic chemicals, iron and steel and miscellaneous chemical products

Trade	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Apr - Sep)
Export	6.37	6.06	6.99	7.15	7.26	4.07
Import	9.78	8.39	12.42	12.74	12.75	6.08
Total	16.15	14.45	19.41	19.89	20.01	10.15

Source: Values in USD billion. (Source: Department of Commerce, GOI)

Malaysia India Digital Council: As part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, both countries have established a Malaysia India Digital Council in the area of digital cooperation to guide engagement in the digital realm and accelerate collaboration in this area such as Digital Public Infrastructure, digital B2B partnership, digital capacity building, cyber security, emerging technologies such as 5G, quantum computing, cloud computing, Internet of Things among others, between the two countries.

Defence Cooperation

India-Malaysia defence relations have steadily grown over the years, from military training to supply of defence equipment and enhanced security dialogues. The MoU on Defence Cooperation signed in 1993 is the cornerstone of defence relations between the two countries. Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh paid an official visit to Malaysia from July 10-11, 2023. Amendment to the MoU was signed in July 2023, during the visit by Hon'ble RM to Malaysia. The first regional office of HAL was opened in Kuala Lumpur during RM's visit. 13th edition of Malaysia India Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM) meeting took place in Malaysia on 19 February 2025 cochaired by Defence Secretaries of both countries

Regular staff talks between services at apec level has been extremely successful. The 9th Army to Army Staff Talks was conducted in Jun 2023, in Hyderabad. The 11th Air Force Staff Talks was conducted in New Delhi from 05 - 07 Nov 2024. 9th Navy to Navy talks between Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy was concluded in New Delhi from 23-25 July 2024.

The Indian Navy ships regularly pay port visits to Malaysia. Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Samudra Paheredar made a port call at Pulau Indah Naval Base (Port Klang) from 14 to 17 Mar 2023. INS Kavaratti made a port call at Langkawi from 22 - 28 May 2023 and also participated in LIMA (Langkawi Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition). INS Delhi made a Port Call at Port Klang from 29 - 31 May 2023. Indian Navy's 'First Training Squadron' 1TS comprising INS Tir, INS Sujata & IGS Ship Sarathi, made a Port Call at Port Klang. From 09 to 12 May 2024, INS Delhi and INS Shakti made a port call at Malaysia's Sepanggar Naval Base, Kota Kinabalu. In the 2023 version of Ex MILAN, RMN participated with KD LEKIR from 19-27 Feb.

This year a 'Mini Defence Expo cum Defence Industry Symposium' was conducted on 16 January 2025 in Kuala Lumpur together with Department of Defence Production (DDP) and Malaysia's Defence Industry Division (DID). The Hon'ble Minister of Defence of Malaysia YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin inaugurated the Mini Defence Expo organised by the High Commission.

Bilateral exercises are a core part of defence cooperation. The recent edition of the army Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI was conducted in Bentong Camp, Malaysia from 02-15 Dec 2024 and saw participation by Indian Army contingent of 78 personnel. In 2024, naval Exercise SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA was conducted from Feb 28-March 02 2024 off the coast of Visakhapatnam. Bilateral Air Exercise UDARA SHAKTI took place Kuantan Malaysia from 05-10 August 2024.

Education

India and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2010 for bilateral co-operation in higher education. There are approximately 8,998 Indian students (both in schools and higher education institutes) in Malaysia (December 2023). There are close linkages between the Indian and Malaysian higher educational institutions with over 500 MoUs/Agreements. An estimated 3,000 Malaysian students are studying in India. India offered 40 ITEC slots to Malaysia during the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 which were fully utilized. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers 3 scholarships under the General Scholarship Scheme (GSS)

and 2 scholarships under the Education Exchange Programme (EEP) every year to Malaysia. India also offers 20 seats under the AYUSH Scholarship Scheme to Malaysian students for pursuing Bachelor degrees in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy medicine in Indian institutions / colleges. There are 4 CBSE schools in Malaysia: Global Indian International School (until Class XII), Vikas International School (until Class X) and Valley International School (until Class VIII) and Sprouts Academy (until Class V). Discussions have been underway to set up a branch campus of IIT in Malaysia.

Indian Scholarship and Trust Fund: The ISTF was created in 1946 by Prime Minister Nehru to benefit the Malaysian-Indian students. Over the years, the corpus of the Fund has been augmented including during PM Modi visit in 2015 with additional grant of RM 3 million. Since 1996, more than RM3.1 million has been disbursed from the ISTF, benefitting more than 1,000 Malaysian Indian students. For the year FY2023-24, 57 Malaysian-Indian students received RM 200,500 in scholarships.

Traditional Medicine

India and Malaysia signed a MoU on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine in October 2010. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy systems are practiced in Malaysia. A MoU for setting up an Academic Chair on Ayurveda between University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and Institute for technical Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) was signed. Ministry of AYUSH has deputed an Ayurveda expert to take up the position of Ayurveda Chair at UTAR who joined in September 2024. The University of Cyberjaya (UoC) in Malaysia offers a Bachelor's degree in Homeopathy. 8th Bilateral Technical Meeting (BTM) on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Medicine took place in Gujarat in August 2023. A Coffee Table Book has recently been published by the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, celebrating the decade-long collaboration between the two sides in the area of traditional medicine systems. The new G2G MoU on Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine was signed in August 2024. Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH visited Malaysia from 25-28 November 2024 and participated in the 09th Bilateral Technical Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur and the 10th International Conference on Traditional and Complimentary Medicine (INTRACOM)

Cultural Cooperation

The Indian Cultural Centre Kuala Lumpur, under ICCR was established in February 2010 to conduct classes in Carnatic Vocal, Kathak dance, Yoga, Hindi language by trained teachers from India and Malaysia. The Centre was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Center (NSCBICC) by PM Narendra Modi during his visit to Malaysia in November 2015. Regular free Hindi classes have started at NSCBICC from June 2024.

GOPIO Malaysia and GOPIO International, Malaysia in partnership with the Mission and various community organizations successfully organized the 2nd PIO Day (Apravasi Diwas) and the 15th GOPIO International Convention, jointly inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Digital of Malaysia YB Gobind Singh Deo and Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs HE. Mr. Kirti Vardhan Singh on 14 Sep 2024, at the iconic Vivekananda Ashram and School premises in Kuala Lumpur from 13-16 September 2024.

Confluence: Samagam- Language Series- The High Commission of India and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC) launched the "Confluence: Samagam- the Language Series" in April 2024 to promote and propagate Indian languages prominently spoken in Malaysia including Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Hindi, Malayalam, Odia, Bengali and Gujarati. Six editions of the Language series on Punjabi, Telugu and Tamil language have been organized so far.

Key cultural events organized by High Commission recently included ; Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in partnership with Netaji Welfare Foundation and Netaji Service Centre on 23 January 2024; Republic Day Celebrations on 26 January 2024; International Women's Day celebrations on 9 March 2024;

100th Birthday celebrations of 2nd Lt Sundram on 5 April 2024; Baisakhi Celebrations in partnership with Various Gurudwaras in April 2024; Tree plantation event in partnership with Bharat Club and SJK(T) Puchong on 3 June 2024; 10th International Day of Yoga 2024 on 21 June 2024; Ipoh Heritage Conference on 26 July 2024; Tree plantation event at Yayasan Ipoh on 26 July 2024; Ipoh Heritage Trail on 27 July 2024; Tree Plantation event in partnership with Global Indian International School on 2 August 2024; Independence Day celebrations and Tree plantation on 15 August 2024; Tree plantation by Hon'ble MoS HE.Mr.Kirti Vardhan Singh at the New Chancery Building Premises on 14 September 2024; 81st INA Raising Day on 21 October 2024 in Penang; Celebration of Classical Status to Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali and Prakrit languages in partnership with Community organizations in Malaysia on 9 November 2024; 555th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev ji in partnership with Gurudwaras in Malaysia. Ayurveda and Siddha Day Celebrations on 30 November 2024.

As an part of elevation of relations to CSP, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR and University Malaya has formalized an agreement to establish a Tiruvalluar Chair of Indian Studies at University Malaya.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Sector Cooperation

India was the 7th largest source country for inbound tourism to Malaysia with over 735,000 Indian tourists visiting Malaysia in 2019. For the year 2023, these numbers are 254,562 (Malaysian tourists to India) and 671,846 (Indian tourists to Malaysia). Malaysia was the largest source country from South East Asia for foreign tourists visiting India with 334,500 Malaysian tourists in 2019 (Source: Tourism Malaysia). Before the Covid-19 Pandemic, there were over 233 weekly flights connecting 19 Indian cities with Malaysia. Presently, in terms of air accessibility, 284 flights (As of December 2024) are operated weekly between India and Malaysia through Malaysia Airlines, Batik Air, AirAsia, Air Asia X, Air India and IndiGo. The Government of Malaysia announced visa-free travel for Indian Nationals from 01 December 2023 until 31 December 2024 to promote inbound tourism to Malaysia. India has allowed gratis e-tourist visa for 30 days for Malaysian travellers. Air India began operations from 15 September, 2024.

Indian community/ Consular/Manpower Issues/Persons of India Origin (PIOs):

There are approx. 185,000 NRIs both skilled and unskilled in Malaysia. The number of Indian expats in Malaysia is around 25,000. Total number of Persons of Indian Origin is around 2.75 million (about 6.8% of Malaysia's population). 90% of PIOs speak Tamil and the rest speak Telugu, Malayalam, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, etc. Malaysia has the third largest Indian diaspora in the world (2.9 mn). There are almost 20,000 Hindu temples and over 120 Gurudwaras in the country. 90% of PIOs speak Tamil and the rest speak Telugu, Malayalam, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, etc.

Malaysia has been sending the largest contingent to the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and currently there are seven PBS Awardees from Malaysia, namely Tun Samy Vellu, Tan Sri Somasundaram, Tan Sri Vadiveloo, Tan Sri Ajit Singh, Tan Sri Datuk Ravindran Menon and Tan Sri Dr. Thambirajah Muniandy and Tan Sri Dr S. Subramaniam (awarded in 2025). The largest ever Malaysian contingent (around 527) led by Tan Sri SA Vigneswaran, the current President of Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) participated in PBD Convention in Varanasi in January 2019. A 100 member contingent from Malaysia visited Bhubaneshwar to take part in the PBD Convention in January 2025 led by YB Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Digital of Malaysia.

February 2025