



Significant Diplomatic Engagements

Deepening India-EU Ties through Trade and Strategic Cooperation :

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the President of the European Council, António Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, paid a State Visit to India from 25–27 January 2026 as Chief Guests at the 77th Republic Day celebrations.

During the visit, leaders co-chaired the 16th India–EU Summit, held high-level discussions, and engaged with stakeholders through the India–EU Business Forum signalling renewed momentum in the strategic partnership.

A key outcome of the Summit was the conclusion of negotiations for a landmark India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) hailed as the “Mother of All Deals.” This transformative agreement elevates India’s engagement with the European Union into a modern, rules-based economic partnership between two of the world’s largest economies.

With a combined market of USD 24 trillion and nearly 2 billion people, the FTA unlocks unprecedented opportunities for trade, investment, and innovation. It provides preferential access to over 99% of India’s exports by value, while maintaining safeguards for sensitive sectors.



India-EU bilateral trade has already reached USD 136.5 billion in goods and USD 83.1 billion in services, while there is significant untapped potential. The FTA is set to deepen market integration, reduce trade barriers, and create a predictable, business-friendly environment—particularly benefiting MSMEs, professionals, and exporters. India and the EU, strategic partners since 2004, continue to expand cooperation across trade, technology, and global challenges.



Steel Industry
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PM Modi Highlights India–Malaysia Cultural Bonds in Mann Ki Baat 2026 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the first episode of Mann Ki Baat for 2026, underscored the deep-rooted cultural ties between India and Malaysia, highlighting the significant role played by the Indian diaspora in preserving and promoting Indian traditions and festivals abroad. He drew attention to Malaysia’s strong emphasis on Indian language education, noting the presence of over 500 Tamil schools across the country. The Prime Minister also commended community-driven initiatives such as the Heritage Walks organised by the Malaysia India Heritage Society, as well as the ‘Lal Paad Saari’ walk, which celebrated Bengali culture while also vibrantly showcasing Odissi dance and Baul music. These efforts, he noted, reflect the enduring cultural connection and shared heritage between the two nations.

Visit of Speaker of Dewan Rakyat to India 2026:

H.E. Johari Abdul, Speaker of the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat) of Malaysia, participated in the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth 2026 held in New Delhi from 14–16 January 2026. During his visit, Johari Abdul called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where both leaders reaffirmed the strong and longstanding ties between India and Malaysia. On the sidelines of the conference, he also held bilateral discussions with Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla to advance Malaysia–India parliamentary collaboration. The conference itself brought together 61 Speakers and Presiding Officers from 42 Commonwealth countries to deliberate on key issues, including the impact of Artificial Intelligence and social media on legislative processes, reinforcing Malaysia’s proactive role in shaping the future of parliamentary governance.



Visit of YAM Tunku Zain Al-Abidin to India: YAM Tunku Zain Al Abidin visited India under ICCR’s Distinguished Visitor Programme in January 2026. During the visit he also engaged with Universities, Think Tanks and officials in Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru. During his Delhi visit he met the Director General of ICCR and also attended the Beating Retreats Ceremony of Republic Day 2026.



India–Malaysia Co-Chair ADMM-Plus Counter-Terrorism Meeting in New Delhi:

An 18-member delegation from the Malaysian Ministry of Defence, led by Dato’ Muhammad Ammir bin Haron, participated in the 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus Experts’ Working Group on Counter Terrorism held in New Delhi from 14–16 January 2026. India and Malaysia, serving as co-chairs for the 2024–2027 cycle, used the meeting to advance regional cooperation on counter-terrorism, share best practices, and strengthen policy coordination, continuing the collaborative momentum from the 14th meeting in New Delhi (March 2025) and the 15th in Kuala Lumpur (July 2025), and reaffirming their leadership in promoting security and stability under the ADMM-Plus framework.



Engagements of High Commission of India Kuala Lumpur

High Commission of India in Malaysia celebrated ITEC Day 2025 on 8 January 2026 at the Royal Selangor Club, Kuala Lumpur, attended by senior Malaysian officials including Dato' Seri Jana Santhiran Muniayan, Dato' Haslina Binti Abdul Hamid, Dato' Ts. Dr. Nagulendran Kangayatkarasu, and Major General Dato' Indera Zahari Bin Mohd Ariffin, along with over 110 participants including ITEC alumni. The event featured alumni sharing their experiences across ministries and agencies, highlighting the programme's impact on professional development, while H.E. B.N. Reddy emphasised the expanded ITEC offerings under the India–Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including 240 civilian slots in emerging domains such as AI, cybersecurity, specialised capacity-building for mid-level civil servants at India's National Centre for Good Governance, and a record 40 defence training slots for the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces in 2025.



On 13 January 2026, Secretary General Dato' Sri Amran Mohamed Zin received a courtesy call from H.E. B.N. Reddy. During the meeting, the High Commissioner congratulated Malaysia on its successful Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025, and both leaders discussed the prospects of a high-level visit in 2026 to further strengthen regional cooperation and bilateral engagement.

High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur hosted an official Pre-Summit Event on 21 January 2026 ahead of the Global AI Impact Summit 2026 (19–20 February) in New Delhi, marking the first time the Summit is held in the Global South and highlighting its pillars of People, Planet, and Progress. H.E. B.N. Reddy emphasised India's growing leadership in AI through the IndiaAI Mission, which has deployed over 38,000 GPUs to support a rapidly expanding ecosystem, while showcasing ongoing India–Malaysia collaboration via the Malaysia–India Digital Council. The event included a presentation by Dr. Vivekanand T.S., First Secretary (Commerce & Economic), a screening of the official Summit video, and the Malaysia–India Conclave on Trusted and Responsible AI, featuring panel discussions on operationalising trusted AI, translating AI capabilities into real-world impact, and ensuring responsible deployment at scale.





On 20 January 2026, H.E. B.N. Reddy paid a courtesy call on Ikram bin Mohd Ibrahim at Wisma Putra. During the meeting, they discussed preliminary arrangements and preparations for an upcoming high-level visit.

High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur, in partnership with the Malaysia India Heritage Society, Universiti Malaya, and Persatuan Yasmin Ahmad, organized a special prelude screening titled “Shared Values & Stories – Honoring Yasmin Ahmad” on 22 January 2026 at the Asia-Europe Institute, Universiti Malaya. The event showcased a curated selection of television advertisements by the late Yasmin Ahmad, one of Malaysia’s most creative personalities, celebrating her contributions to storytelling and culture.



High Commissioner B. N. Reddy paid a courtesy call on Malaysia’s Minister of Human Resources, YB Ramanan Ramakrishnan, on 22 January. The meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to exchange views on further enhancing bilateral cooperation and strengthening strategic ties between Malaysia and India.

The 77th Republic Day of India was celebrated with great fervour at India House, Kuala Lumpur, as H.E. B.N. Reddy unfurled the Indian tricolour flag and read out the address of the Hon’ble President of India. The celebrations brought together members of the Indian community, school students, media representatives, and NRI women entrepreneurs in large numbers. The audience enjoyed captivating dance performances by Indian community associations and students, including a medley of patriotic songs by Bharat Club, a traditional Kajri dance, and energetic dance performances by students from Global Indian International School, Vikas International School, Sprout Academy, Bharat Club Ladies, and Bihar Cultural Association. In addition, several NRI women entrepreneurs showcased a diverse array of products—from jewelry, handicrafts, and resin art to bakery items, clothing, herbal products, and Indian delicacies—highlighting their innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.





The High Commission of India in Malaysia hosted the National Day Reception to mark the 77th Republic Day of India on 27 January 2026 bringing together members of the diplomatic corps, senior Malaysian government officials, distinguished guests, the Indian diaspora, business leaders, cultural organisations, and media. H.E. Gobind Singh Deo, Malaysia’s Minister of Digital, attended as Chief Guest and was welcomed by an array of cultural performances including Rajasthani Folk dance by Marwari Yuva Manch and Lavani performance by Maharashtra Mandal Malaysia. The formal proceedings featured the exchange of toasts and renditions of the national anthems of India and Malaysia by a choir from the Malaysian Association for the Blind, reflecting a shared commitment to inclusivity. In his address, the High Commissioner, H.E. B.N. Reddy highlighted India’s democratic values and the growing India–Malaysia partnership across multiple sectors. The evening included cultural performances such as a Bharatanatyam recital by the Temple of Fine Arts Malaysia, a Yakshagana presentation titled “Sri Devi Mahathme – Mahisha Mardhini” by Karnataka Kala Darshini, and a saxophone performance by Mr. Wan Mohd Andre of Penang, underscoring the vibrant cultural ties between the two countries. On the occasion, Indian companies in Malaysia had set up stalls, along with tourism and defence display booths, which were visited by the Chief Guest.



Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC)

Karnataka Kala Darshini, an ICCR-empowered troupe, visited Malaysia from 22 to 28 January 2026 for a week-long series of Yakshagana dance performances and lecture-demonstrations at various venues. The opening programme was held on 22 January 2026 at the NSCBICC, and featured a special rendition of Vande Mataram by all the artists as part of the nationwide commemoration marking 150 years of Vande Mataram. During their visit, the troupe also performed at the Mission's National Day Reception, as well as at various venues in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, and Ipoh. These programmes were organised in partnership with the Malaysia Hindu Sangam (MaKaSa), the Greentown Indian Cultural Society, Ipoh, and the Indian Meet & Greet Club, Johor Bahru.



High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC), community associations, and international schools, celebrated World Hindi Day 2026 on 10 January at the NSCBICC. Inaugurated by Deputy High Commissioner Hitesh Rajpal, who also read out a special message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion. The event featured a quiz competition for students, a Kavi Goshti (poetry session), enactments of iconic scenes from Hindi literature and cinema, and performances by Hindi students at NSCBICC. Attended by over 160 students, educators, and community members, the celebration highlighted the cultural significance of Hindi, fostered India–Malaysia cultural ties, and provided a platform for learners and enthusiasts to showcase their talent and appreciation for the language.



1. Parliament clears Bill to allow 100% FDI in insurance sector

A day after the Lok Sabha passed it, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday (December 17, 2025) passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, which allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector. The Upper House also cleared the Repealing....[read more](#)

2. UPI Recognized as World's Largest Real-Time Payment System by IMF; Accounts for 49% of Global Transactions

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) report on 'Growing Retail Digital Payments (The Value of Interoperability)' dated June 2025 had recognized Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the world's largest retail fast-payment system (FPS) by transaction volume. Further, as per ACI Worldwide report.....[read more](#)

3. India's smartphone export to U.S. triples to \$1.47 billion in October

India's smartphone exports to the U.S. more than three-fold year-on-year to \$1.47 billion in October despite global challenges, according to the government data. The export stood at \$0.46 billion in October last year. Cumulatively, smartphone exports to the United States surged to \$10.78 billion during April-October this fiscal from \$3.60 billion in the year-ago period, the data showed... [read more](#)

4. Indian and Asia Pacific banks maintain stronger capital than US and European peers: Moody's

Moody's survey highlights that Asia-Pacific banks, including India's, have stronger capital positions than peers in the US and Western Europe, supported by prudent regulatory oversight. Large Indian private banks, such as SBI, ICICI, HDFC, and Axis Bank, show high CET1 ratios (14.7–18%) and leverage due to strong internal capital generation and easy access to equity markets, outperforming government-owned peers.....[read more](#)

5. India Targets \$45 Billion Space Economy Driven by Private Firms

India is accelerating its space ambitions, targeting a sustained lunar presence within the next decade as part of its broader plan to become a developed economy by 2047.....[read more](#)

6. Global Experts Chart the Future of Ashwagandha at WHO Global Traditional Medicine Summit

Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*), one of Ayurveda's most revered Rasayana herbs, took centre stage at a high-level international side event held on the sidelines of the 2nd WHO Global Traditional Medicine Summit, 2025, reaffirming India's leadership in advancing traditional medicine through evidence-based global dialogue. The session, titled "Ashwagandha: From Traditional Wisdom to Global Impact – Perspectives from Leading Global Experts," was organised.....[read more](#)

7. LVM3 Demonstrates World-Class Reliability with Successful Deployment of Heaviest Payload: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State in the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today congratulated Team ISRO on the successful launch of the LVM3-M6 mission carrying the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite....[read more](#)

8. Lenovo to build, export AI servers from India

Lenovo, a global tech behemoth, is shifting its India operations to become a key export base for its infrastructure division, with plans to launch the design and development of AI servers for export to other countries. This move signifies the increasing importance of India in the technology value chain in the global tech industry. During CES 2026.....[read more](#)

9. How PRAGATI is speeding up India's big projects — Inside an Oxford study **Global Experts Chart the Future of Ashwagandha at WHO Global Traditional Medicine Summit**

University of Oxford research shows that the PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) platform facilitates faster implementation of significant infrastructure projects in India. The research examined the effect that scheduled, top-level leadership reviews have had on the sector and found that PRAGATI has helped....[read more](#)

Spotlight and Opportunities in India

India's Space Sector — Growth, Policy, Commercialisation & Opportunities



- India's space economy has grown rapidly, valued at around US\$ 8 billion today and projected to reach US\$ 40–45 billion by 2033, as India accelerates private participation, commercial launches, and space services. India is targeting an increase in its share of the global space economy from ~2% to 8–10% over the next decade, driven by policy reforms and new market players.
- **Private space ecosystem expansion:** Since opening up the sector in 2020, the number of space startups has surged, with nearly 400 startups now active in satellite manufacturing, launch services, and space data analytics — a dramatic rise from just a handful prior to the reforms.
- **Policy & regulatory support:** The introduction of **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre)** has enabled private players to participate across the space value chain (build, launch, operate), and the 2023 Space Policy allows for 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in key sub-segments, significantly improving the investment environment.
- **Commercial launch capability & credibility:** India's space programme, anchored by ISRO, has executed hundreds of successful launches including foreign satellites, establishing cost-competitive launch services that are increasingly available to global customers.
- **Private sector milestones & innovation:** Indian startups like Skyroot Aerospace (first private rocket Vikram-S), Agnikul Cosmos (3D-printed engines) and others are pushing the frontiers of launch vehicles, propulsion tech, earth observation satellites, and data services — deepening the commercial space ecosystem.
- **Government funding & VC support:** A dedicated ₹1,000 crore venture capital fund for space startups has been launched to fuel innovation and scale-ups, complemented by policy measures to facilitate R&D, manufacturing, and global partnerships.
- **Emerging downstream opportunities:** The space value chain is expanding beyond hardware into satellite data services, analytics, communications infrastructure, and Earth observation applications, areas that can attract foreign investment due to global demand for data-driven solutions.
- **Strategic growth ambitions:** Indian leaders have outlined ambitions such as establishing the Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035 and planning for human lunar missions by 2040, reflecting long-term vision and global positioning in space exploration.




INDIA TOURISM - Cuisine of Lakshadweep





Lakshadweep cuisine is a delightful blend of fresh seafood, coconut, and aromatic spices, offering a unique taste of the island's rich cultural and maritime heritage.

Sl. No	Events	Description	
1.	Kavaratti Briyani	Kavaratti Biryani features fragrant Basmati rice, paired with fresh seafood and seasoned with a rich blend of coconut, coriander, and a subtle hint of saffron. Its aromatic flavors deliver a true taste of the coastal paradise.	
2.	Mus Kavaab	Mus Kavaab is a flavorful fish curry made with tuna, infused with coconut oil, dry coconut, onion, tomato, and a blend of aromatic spices. This dish is light yet rich in taste, offering a perfect balance of flavors.	
3.	Adukku Pathiri	Adukku Pathiri is a layered bread made with rice flour, coconut, and spices, with each layer carefully stacked and baked to a golden brown perfection.	
4.	Dweep Unda	Dweep Unda is a traditional delicacy made with coconut and jaggery, bound together with a minimal amount of flour for texture and crunch. The authentic recipe wraps the mixture in dried banana or coconut palm leaves, enhancing its rustic flavor.	
5.	Nannari Sharbat	Nannari sharbat, made from the roots of the Nannari plant, is a beloved local beverage known for its cooling properties and refreshing taste. This traditional drink offers a delightful taste of indigenous flavors, providing both hydration and a unique cultural experience.	

INCREDIBLE INDIA

Lakshadweep

Sl. No	Places to visit	
1.	<p>Bangaram Island</p> <p>Bangaram Island is a small, teardrop-shaped paradise located near Agatti and Kavaratti in the Lakshadweep archipelago. Known for its pristine white sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters, it offers a serene escape for nature lovers. The island is perfect for snorkeling, diving, and enjoying tranquil island life.</p>	
2.	<p>Kadmat Island</p> <p>Kadmat Island, also called Cardamom Island, is a beautiful coral island in the Amindivi group. Known for its stunning long sandy beaches, it offers a peaceful getaway with its pristine shorelines. The southern tip is particularly famous for its sandbanks, making it a perfect spot for nature lovers.</p>	
3.	<p>Marine Museum</p> <p>Located in Kavaratti, the Marine Aquarium and Museum showcases Lakshadweep's rich marine life with preserved deep-sea specimens, corals, shells, and traditional fishing artifacts. It's a must-visit educational spot to explore the islands' unique underwater ecosystem..</p>	

Sl. No	Places to visit	
4.	<p>Pitti Bird Sanctuary</p> <p>Also called Pakshipitti, this uninhabited coral islet, 24 km northwest of Kavaratti, is a vital nesting ground for pelagic birds. It serves as a crucial breeding site for seabirds like the sooty tern, greater crested tern, and brown noddy.</p>	
5.	<p>Minicoy Lighthouse</p> <p>Established on 2 February 1885 during the British era, the Minicoy Island Lighthouse stands at the southern tip of Minicoy (locally known as Maliku). Built in brick masonry and rising to a height of 49.5 metres, the lighthouse features a lantern and gallery, with a visibility range of up to 40 nautical miles.</p>	
6.	<p>Ujra Mosque</p> <p>Located northwest of Kavaratti, the Ujra Mosque, also known as the Mohidden Mosque, is one of the oldest and most striking mosques in India. Built in the 17th century by Sheikh Mohammad Kasim, it is renowned for its ornate ceiling, believed to have been intricately carved from a single piece of driftwood.</p>	
7.	<p>Agatti Island</p> <p>Renowned for its crystal-clear shallow lagoons, pristine white sand beaches, and vibrant marine life, Agatti Island is the primary gateway to Lakshadweep as the only island with an airstrip. It offers exceptional opportunities for snorkeling, scuba diving, and kayaking in its stunning turquoise waters.</p>	

Temple of Fine Arts



- The Temple of Fine Arts Kuala Lumpur (TFA KL) is one of Malaysia's leading Indian cultural institutions, dedicated to preserving and promoting the richness of Indian performing arts. Its journey began in 1971 when Swami Shantanand Saraswathi, an Indian monk and visionary, inspired Malaysians through Bhagavad Gita talks, bhajans, kirtans, and dance dramas. With the support of renowned dance couples Gopal–Radha Shetty and Sivadas–Vatsala Sivadas, TFA was formally founded in 1981 to nurture creativity and cultural identity among Malaysian youth.
- From its humble start in a bungalow, TFA KL has grown into a five-storey complex in Brickfields, housing studios, rehearsal spaces, a 500-seat auditorium, library, and cafeteria. It offers extensive classes in Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Contemporary dance, Bollywood, Carnatic and Hindustani vocal, and a wide range of instruments including veena, violin, mridangam, sitar, tabla, and flute. It also provides introductory arts programmes for children, yoga, drama, and has staged many acclaimed productions.
- Guided by the traditional Guru–Sishya model, TFA reshaped the teaching of Indian arts in Malaysia, and many private arts teachers in the Klang Valley trace their roots to the institution. Beyond the arts, TFA runs the Lavanya Arts centre, SivaSanta free medical clinic, the Annalakshmi Vegetarian Restaurant, and HamsaVahini Travel & Tours. The Shantanand Auditorium, opened in 2010, is now a major venue for cultural and performing arts events.
- Rooted in Indian heritage yet welcoming to all Malaysians, TFA KL continues Swamiji's vision of making the arts accessible, meaningful, and spiritually enriching for generations to come.

Useful BizLinks

- [Economic Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs](#)
- [Department of Commerce](#)
- [Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade \(DPIIT\)](#)
- [Ministry of Tourism](#)
- [Indian Brand Equity Foundation \(IBEF\)](#)
- [Invest India](#)
- [Confederation of Indian Industry \(CII\)](#)
- [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry \(FICCI\)](#)
- [Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India \(ASSOCHAM\)](#)
- [Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority \(APEDA\)](#)
- [Apparel Export Promotion Council \(AEPC\)](#)
- [Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council \(CHEMEXCIL\)](#)
- [Carpet Export Promotion Council](#)
- [Cashew Export Promotion Council of India \(CEPC\)](#)
- [Coffee Board of India](#)
- [Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council \(TEXPROCIL\)](#)
- [Council for Leather Exports \(India CLE\)](#)
- [Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council \(ESC India\)](#)
- [Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India](#)
- [Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts \(EPCH\)](#)
- [Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council \(GJEPC\)](#)
- [Handloom Export Promotion Council \(HEPC\)](#)
- [Indian Silk Export Promotion Council \(ISEPC\)](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council \(Pharmexcil\)](#)
- [Plastics Export Promotion Council \(PLEXCONCIL\)](#)
- [Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council \(PDEXCIL\)](#)
- [Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council \(SEPC\)](#)
- [Spices Board of India](#)
- [Sports Goods Export Promotion Council \(SGEPC\)](#)
- [Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council \(SRTEPC\)](#)
- [Tea Board of India](#)
- [Tobacco Board](#)
- [Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council \(WWEPC\)](#)