

INDIA-MALAYSIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

India established **diplomatic relations** with the Federation of Malaya (predecessor state of Malaysia) in **1957**. The two countries enjoyed a strong relationship in the 1960s as a result of the personal friendship between Prime Ministers Nehru and Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra. Presently, India and Malaysia have developed close political, economic and socio-cultural relations. Malaysia is home to over 2.95 million large Indian diaphora and the second largest PIO community in the world after the US. There is growing engagement in all aspects of bilateral relationship.

There has been growing engagement in all aspects of our bilateral relationship, which was reflected in the elevation of India-Malaysia relations to **Enhanced Strategic Partnership**, during the visit of **PM Shri Narendra Modi** to Malaysia in **November 2015**. Our predominant interests in Malaysia have been to expand trade and economic partnership; strengthen defence and security cooperation; and continued welfare of our large community.

Bilateral VVIP visits (in Chronological order)

Malaysian Dignitaries to India: PM Tunku Abdul Rahman (1962); Two visits of Yang- di- Pertuan Agong (King) prior to 1974; Agong (King) V-Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Al-Haj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah (1974); PM Tun Hussein-(1979/ 1980); PM Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad-(1983/1987/1993/1994/ 1996/1997/ 2002); PM Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi-(2004); PM Mohd Najib Tun Razak-(2010/2012/2017/2018)

Indian Dignitaries to Malaysia: PM Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (1954); President Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1958) ; Vice President Dr. Zakir Hussein (1966) ; PM Smt. Indira Gandhi (1968); President Shri V.V. Giri (1973); President Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed (1977); PM Shri V.P. Singh (1990); PM Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao (1995); Vice President Shri Krishan Kant (1997); PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-(2001/2003); PM Dr. Manmohan Singh-2005 (11-14 December)/2010 (26-28 October); PM Shri Narendra Modi-2015 (20-22 November) and 2018 (31 May)

During the visit of PM Dr. Manmohan Singh from 26-28 October 2010, the two leaders agreed to establish a **Strategic Partnership**, thus placing bilateral ties at a higher level than at any time since the 1960s. PM Shri Narendra Modi undertook an official Visit to Malaysia on 23 November 2015. PM Modi also participated in the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit on 21-22 November 2015. During the visit, a Joint Statement on **Enhanced Strategic Partnership** between India and Malaysia was issued. The visit of **PM Najib Razak** in March-April 2017 marked the 60th anniversary of India-Malaysia diplomatic relations. It was PM Najib Razak's third visit to India since assuming office in 2009. On **25-26 January 2018**, **PM Najib visited India** again and participated at the 25th anniversary celebration to mark India's engagements with ASEAN. He was one of the Guests of Honour among other ASEAN Heads of State/Government at the 69th Republic Day Parade. **PM Shri Narendra Modi visited Malaysia on 31 May 2018** to congratulate newly elected Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad. The two leaders met in November 2018 in Singapore on side-lines of ASEAN Summit and again on 5 September 2019 in Vladivostok during the Eastern Economic Summit.

Recent high level visits

- ▶ The Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah visited India on June 15-17, 2022 to take part in the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in New Delhi on June 16, 2022. EAM Dr S Jaishankar and FM Abdullah held bilateral meeting on June 17, 2022.
- ▶ The Minister of Human Resources of Malaysia Mr. Sivakumar Varatharaju Naidu, visited India from 7-13 January, 2023 on the invitation of the EAM to take part in the 17th PBD Convention in Indore. A 150 member Malaysian delegation took part in the PBD 2023 at Indore. Minister for Human Resources YB V Sivakumar again undertook a working visit to India from 31 March to 4 April 2023. During the visit he witnessed the signing of MoU between TalentCorp and National Skill Development Corporation.
- ▶ The Regent of Pahang HRH Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah visited India from 7-12 April 2023 for the Commemorative event marking 50 years of Project Tiger in India. He also had a meeting with Hon'ble Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupendra Yadav.
- ▶ Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan visited Malaysia on May 31- June 2, 2023 on a working visit. He inaugurated the first ever PIO Day Malaysia organised by GOPIO Malaysia.
- ▶ Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh Ji paid an official visit to Malaysia from July 10 -11, 2023. During the visit, the Defence Minister called on the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim; had bilateral meetings with his Malaysian counterpart, Mr Dato' Seri Mohamad Hasan and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.
- ▶ The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir undertook his first official visit to India in capacity of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia from 5-8 November 2023, to co-chair the 6th India Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting along with EAM Dr. S Jaishankar.
- ▶ Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Gol visited Malaysia on a working visit from 30 Nov to 3 December 2023 to attend the inaugural Global Organisation for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) International Business Summit and Expo. The Summit was also attended by Shri Balvantsinh Rajput, Minister of Industries for Gujarat along with a delegation.
- ▶ Apart from above, other visits since December 2022 included visit of YB Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security (8-9 January 2023), YB Dato' Hajjah Hanifah, Deputy Minister of Economy (5-8 February 2023), YB Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan, Deputy Minister of Tourism Arts and Culture (17-22 February 2023 and 14-26 August 2023) and YB Fuziah Salleh, Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living (19-24 September 2023), YB M Kulasegaran, Deputy Minister in Prime Ministers Department, Malaysia to Chennai, State of Tamil Nadu from 6 - 15 January, 2024."

Bilateral VVIP visits

Malaysian Dignitaries to India

- PM Tunku Abdul Rahman (1962)
- Two visits of Yang di- Pertuan Agong (King) prior to 1974
- Agong (King) V-AI-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Al-Haj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah (1974)
- PM Tun Hussein Onn (1979/ 1980)
- PM Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad (1983/1987/1993/1994/ 1996/1997/ 2002)
- PM Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi-(2004)
- PM Dato' Sri Najib Razak- (2010/2012/2017/2018)

Indian Dignitaries to Malaysia

- PM Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (1954)
- President Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1958)
- Vice President Dr. Zakir Hussein (1966)
- PM Smt. Indira Gandhi (1968)
- President Shri V.V. Giri (1973)
- President Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed (1977)
- PM Shri V.P. Singh (1990)
- PM Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao (1995)
- Vice President Shri Krishan Kant (1997)
- PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-(2001/2003)
- PM Dr. Manmohan Singh-2005 (11-14 December)/2010 (26-28 October)
- PM Shri Narendra Modi-2015 (20-22 November) and 2018 (31 May)

Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms

Following institutionalized arrangements exist between India and Malaysia:

- India- Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) at the Foreign Minister level;
- India- Malaysia Foreign Office Consultations at Secretary-level;
- Malaysia- India Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM) at Secretary-level;
- India- Malaysia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime;
- India- Malaysia Joint Committee on Science and Technology;

- India-Malaysia Joint Working Group on Information Technology;
- India- Malaysia Joint Working Group on Information Technology;
- India- Malaysia Joint Working Group on Labour;
- India-Malaysia Joint Working Group on Higher Education;
- India-Malaysia Joint Working Group on Renewable Energy;
- India-Malaysia Joint Working Group on Public Administration;
- Bilateral Technical Meeting (BTM) on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Medicine.

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); 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); and MoU on Mutual Recognition of Educational Degrees and Certificates between AIU and MQA (2017); Exchange of Note Verbale on Mutual **Recognition of Vaccine Certificates** (June 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)**

Economic & Commercial relations

Economic and commercial relations are the mainstay of our bilateral partnership. With strengthening bilateral economic and commercial relations, Malaysia has emerged as 13th largest trading partner for India while India figures among the ten largest trading partners for Malaysia which is also our 3rd largest trading partner in ASEAN. A bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering goods, services and investment has come into effect from 1 July 2011.

Malaysia has emerged as 13th largest trading partner for India while India figures among the ten largest trading partners for Malaysia which is also our 3rd largest trading partner in ASEAN. India's major exports items to Malaysia are mineral fuels, mineral oils; aluminium and articles thereof, meat and edible meat offal, iron and steel, copper and articles thereof, organic chemicals, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical machinery and equipment; etc. **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	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Apr - Nov)
Export	5.22	5.70	6.43	6.37	6.06	6.99	7.156	4.32
Import	8.93	9.01	10.81	9.78	8.39	12.42	12.734	7.42
Total	14.15	14.71	17.24	16.15	14.45	19.41	19.89	11.74

Source: Department of Commerce, GOI

Investments

As per official figures (DPIIT), **Malaysia ranks as the 26th largest investor in India** with FDI inflow of **US\$ 1.16 billion** during the period April 2000 to September 2022 (Source: DPIIT, GoI). Malaysia's FDI in India is primarily focused on automotive, fast-moving consumer goods, infrastructure, human resources, healthcare, oil and gas, and renewable energy. The highest investment proposals have been in the telecommunications, followed by fuels (power and oil refinery), roads and highways.

Malaysia's National Oil Company Petronas has a growing presence in India and considers India as a partner in meeting Malaysia's national Renewable Energy targets. Petronas India has been engaged in various steps of the value chain over the past two decades covering crude oil trading, liquefied petroleum gas, petrochemical, lubricants, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and more recently, renewables. In 2019, Petronas started operation in the renewable energy sector through Amplus Solar, a leading rooftop and commercial and industrial (C&I) player. Petronas has a target of 3GW renewable energy capacity by 2024 and believes a majority of that will come from India.

The largest presence of **Malaysian construction companies** outside Malaysia is in India. The prime interest for Malaysian companies to invest in India has been infrastructure and construction sector with a particular focus on roads and highways, railways and up-gradation of airport and ports. Other sectors are telecommunications, ICT, engineering, power, oil & gas etc. In addition to the investments, **Malaysian companies have undertaken over US\$ 4 billion worth of projects in India**. Malaysia-based IHH Healthcare has acquired a controlling stake (31.1%) in India's **Fortis Hospitals** in November 2018 for an approximate US\$600 million (INR 4,000 Crores).

Indian investments in Malaysia: 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), Sabah Forest Industries (owned by Ballarpur Industries Limited of the Avantha 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. **Biocon India** made an investment worth RM 1 billion (**US\$ 300 million**) to set up its first overseas manufacturing and research facility in Johor Bahru in Malaysia in partnership with Biotech Corporation of Malaysia. Biocon has its largest insulin manufacturing facility in Malaysia and its investments in Malaysia have brought down the cost of insulin by over 70%. IRCON started its operation in Malaysia in the year 1988, and till date has executed numerous major projects for KTMB & Government of Malaysia

Presently, there are more than **150 Indian companies**, including 61 Indian joint ventures and 3 Indian Public Sector Undertakings operating in Malaysia. Their areas of operation are manufacture of textiles and yarn, drugs and pharmaceuticals, glass containers; automobile associated activities, specialty chemicals, steel furniture, rubber products, services in banking, insurance, information technologies, education, biotechnology, healthcare, etc. **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.

Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees: Trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in Indian Rupee (INR) in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies. This follows the decision by the Reserve Bank of India (India's Central Bank) in July

2022 to allow settlement of international trade in Indian Rupee (INR). This initiative by the Reserve Bank of India is aimed at facilitating the growth of global trade and to support the interests of the global trading community in Indian Rupee (INR). India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM) is the first Bank in Malaysia that has operationalised this mechanism by opening a Special Rupee Vostro Account through its Corresponding Bank in India i.e. Union Bank of India.

ASEAN INDIA Business Summit 2023: The Fifth ASEAN-India Business Summit & ASEAN-India Business Excellence Awards and Gala Dinner was held on 6 March 2023 at Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. This event was organized by ASEAN-India Business Council in partnership with High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur joined by Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry. The Fifth ASEAN-India Business Summit celebrated 30 years of ASEAN-India Engagement and in the backdrop of the recent decision of ASEAN-India Summit of 2022 to elevate ASEAN-India Partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Secretary (ER) Shri Dammu Ravi led the Indian delegation for the event. **India-ASEAN Startup Summit 2023:** The summit was held on 12-13 December 2023 at Sunway Resort on 14 December 2023 with over 584 participants and over 160 startups. **A 66 member delegation with over 35 startups from India from DPIIT, T-Hub, Start-up India, etc. participated in the summit.**

Defence Cooperation

India-Malaysia defence relations have steadily grown over the years from military training to include 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 which allows for widening the scope of existing bilateral cooperation to include joint ventures, joint development projects, procurement, logistic and maintenance support and training.

Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh paid an official visit to Malaysia from July 10 -11, 2023. Both Ministers approved amendment in the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation between India and Malaysia signed in 1993, through 'Exchange of Letters' (EoL). First regional office of HAL was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur during the visit.

12th edition of the MIDCOM took place on 19 Sep 2023 at New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and Deputy Secretary General (Policy), Malaysia Mr Mohd Yani bin Daud. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the outcomes of the two sub-committee meetings namely Sub Committee on Military Cooperation held on July 27, 2023 and Joint Sub Committee on Defence Science Technology and Industry Cooperation held on September 18, 2023.

Regular Staff Talks between the services at apex level have been extremely successful. The 9th Army to Army Staff Talks was conducted in Jun 2023, in Hyderabad. The 10th Air Force Staff Talks was conducted at Kuala Lumpur from 15 to 17 Mar 2023. 8th Navy to Navy talks between Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy was concluded in Kuala Lumpur from May 30-June 4, 2022.

The **Indian Navy ships regularly pay port visits to Malaysia**, which provides opportunity to both navies to interact and understand each other and also foster bonds of lasting friendship. INS RANVIJAY & INS KORA made port call in Aug 2021 & carried out PASSEX with RMN. **The INS Ship SATPURA also made a port call at Port Kota Kinabalu from May 25-28, 2022.** Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy undertook Exercise SAMUDRA LAKSHMANA during the period. **INS Sumedha made a port call at Port Klang from 27-30 August 2022.** INS Sumedha also participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with RMN Ships. The Royal **Malaysian Navy Ship** regularly participates in **Exercise MILAN**, since its inception. Malaysia participated in MILAN 2018 with KD Lekiu. KD Lekiu also participated in Indian Navy multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 in Vishakapatnam

from Feb 26- March 4, 2022. 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 participated in LIMA Exercise. INS Delhi made a Port Call at Port Klang from 29 - 31 May 2023. Indian Navy 'First Training Squadron' 1TS comprising INS Tir, INS Sujata & IGS Ship Sarathi, made a Port Call at Port Klang, Malaysia on a 3 day visit starting Sept 30 with 82 Officer trainees on board three ships.

With the vision to conduct the bilateral tri-service exercise in near future, the following exercises are being conducted with Malaysia:

Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI: The inaugural bilateral Army Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI (a command post exercise) was held in October 2012. Last Joint bilateral training exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023", between Indian & Malaysian Army commenced on October 23rd 2023 in Umroi Cantonment, India. The Malaysian Army included contingent comprises troops from 5th Royal Battalion of Malaysian Army. The Indian contingent is being represented by a Battalion of THE RAJPUT REGIMENT. In 2022, the Exercise was conducted in Pulau, Kluang, Malaysia in November 2022.

(ii) **Exercise SAMUDRA LAKSMANA:** In 2016, Indian Navy conducted the first ever Table Top Exercise (TTX) with the Royal Malaysian Navy and the inaugural Field Training Exercise (FTX), SAMUDRA LAKSMANA was conducted in Malaysia on 6-7 December 2017. Indian Navy Ship SATPURA and the Royal Malaysian Navy undertook Exercise SAMUDRA LAKSHMANA from May 25-28 at Kota Kinabalu in Sabah.

(iii) **Bilateral Air Exercise:** First Ever bilateral Air Exercise UDARA SHAKTI took place between Indian Airforce and Royal Malaysian Air Force in Kuantan Airbase between 13-16 August 2022.

Education

India and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2010 for bilateral cooperation in higher education. About 3,569 Indian students are studying in Malaysia in public and private universities mainly in the streams of engineering, medicine, business administration and social sciences. Additionally, 4,314 Indian students are doing their schooling in Malaysia; they are the children of the Indian expats here.

An estimated 3,000 Malaysian students are studying in India. India offers 30 slots to Malaysia under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme during the Financial Year (FY) 2022-23. 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. Malaysian students of Indian origin pursuing Bachelor courses in India can also avail scholarships under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC). 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. Since 2007, about 280 Malaysians have attended different courses offered by around 90 institutions under ITEC. A MoU for mutual recognition of degrees between Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) and Association of Indian Universities (AIU) was signed during the visit of PM Najib to India in April 2017.

Indian Scholarship and Trust Fund (ISTF): The ISTF was created in 1946 by Prime Minister Nehru to benefit and assist the Malaysian-Indian students on an annual basis. Over the years, the corpus of the Fund has been augmented by contributions from other Indian Prime Ministers, including Shri Narendra Modi who gave additional grant of RM 3 million during his visit to Malaysia in November 2015. Since 2006, more than RM2 million has been disbursed from the ISTF, benefitting more than 800 Malaysian Indian students. In the 2021-22 FY, 83 Malaysian-Indian students studying in various universities in Malaysia were awarded a total of RM 307,500 in scholarships.

There are 3 CBSE schools in Malaysia: Global Indian International School (until Class XII), Vikas International School (until Class X) and Valley International School (until Class V).

Discussions have been underway to set up an overseas campus of IIT in Malaysia.

Traditional Medicine

59. 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. In addition to the AYUSH Information Cell in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC), Kuala Lumpur since 2010, one Ayurveda doctor and two therapists, and a Siddha doctor were deputed to Malaysia. AYUSH experts are also being periodically deputed for short periods to deliver lectures, consultations, conduct seminars and periodical training to Malaysian doctors, professionals and others. 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 in October 2021. The University of Cyberjaya (UoC) offers a Bachelor's degree in Homeopathy. 7th of Bilateral Technical Meeting (BTM) on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Medicine took place in Goa on 8 December 2023 in Goa.

Cultural Cooperation

The Indian Cultural Centre Kuala Lumpur, under ICCR was established in February 2010 which conducts 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.

As part of the celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and the International Day of Yoga, High Commission organised 75 Yoga events across all states of Malaysia in collaboration with largest number of partner organisations including cultural and community organisations, yoga clubs, businesses, Universities and schools in Malaysia. The Yoga Mahotsav of 75 yoga event series started with the IDY 2022 celebrations at Batu Caves on June 21 which was participated by over 800 yoga enthusiasts.

Kicking off the year-long celebrations and activities marking 65 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Malaysia in 2022, the High Commission of India in Malaysia organised a Special Commemorative Event- India-Malaysia@65 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC) on September 9, 2022 in partnership with the Consortium of Indian Industries in Malaysia (CIIM) and Malaysia India Business Council (MIBC). H.E. YB Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia graced the occasion representing the Government of Malaysia as the Guest of Honour.

On 10 February 2023, High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur organised a Special musical event, "India-Malaysia@65: Musical Extravaganza" on February 10, 2023 to mark 65 years of establishment of India-Malaysia bilateral relations in collaboration with Temple of Fine Arts (TFA). Malaysian leading Sitar Maestro Smauel Dass performed at the event.

On March 10, 2023, to celebrate the sporting linkages between India and Malaysia in the milestone year, High Commission of India organized the India-Malaysia@65: Golf Game and Royal Gala Dinner in association with the Consortium of Indian Industries in Malaysia (CIIM). Yang de-Pertuan Agong (The King of Malaysia) graced the occasion as the chief guest along with the Queen and members of Royal Family.

High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur organised the **9th International Yoga Day** celebrations at the iconic Batu Caves Complex on Wednesday, 21st June 2023. Over 1,000 yoga enthusiasts participated in the mega event, which included people from all walks and ages including members of the diplomatic community, senior officials of the Government of Malaysia, NGOs, members of various community, cultural and yoga associations, Malaysian nationals, members of Indian diaspora, school children, etc.

High Commission in partnership with Think City Penang, and the local Indian Diaspora associations and schools in Penang organised "Reminiscing Rabindranath Tagore" to commemorate Guru Rabindranath Tagore at Dewan Budaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang on 29 November 2023 in Penang. The event was organised to situate the thoughts and ideals of Rabindranath Tagore in the contemporary world and also to popularize his noble ideas to a wider audience in an effort to provide a continuum to his rich legacy in Malaysia.

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. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and the subsequent travel restrictions, overall tourist arrival in Malaysia decreased from 26.1 million to 4.3 million in 2020. 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 260 weekly flights connecting 19 Indian cities with Malaysia. With opening of the International travel, flight connectivity is again resuming. India and Malaysia signed a revised Air Services Agreement was signed in New Delhi in April 2017.

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

There are approx. **185,000 NRIs** both skilled and unskilled in Malaysia. Illegal Immigration, exploitation at workplaces, exploitation of Indian seafarers, repatriation of workers, and human trafficking from India into Malaysia are major concerns to the two Governments. 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). The Indian community enjoys freedom of practice of religion. 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 six 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. Datuk Sri G. Palanivel, former Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia and President of Malaysian Indian Congress was the Chief Guest at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held in New Delhi in January 2014. In 14th PBD held at Bengaluru in January 2017, Datuk Sri Dr. S Subramaniam and Dato Seri Utama Samy Vellu participated as guests of honour. The **largest ever Malaysian contingent (around 527)** led by Tan Sri SA Vigneswaran, the current President of Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) and Special Envoy of PM for South Asia participated in **PBD Convention** in Varanasi in **January 2019**. A 150 member contingent from Malaysia visited Indore to take part in the 17th PBD Convention.

Assistance to Indians during COVID-19 and Vande Bharat Mission

Malaysia was amongst the first few countries included into the Vande Bharat Mission Phase 1 in May 2020. Till the closure of the Vande Bharat Mission in March 2022, around 1,10,000 Indians nationals have been repatriated from Malaysia by over 670 flights under Vande Bharat Mission.

Jan 2024

