

**High Commission of India  
Kuala Lumpur**

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**Press Release**

**INDIA-MALAYSIA@65  
SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EVENT**

**Celebrations of 65 years of India-Malaysia relations kicked off at a Special Commemorative Event in Kuala Lumpur**

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. The event was organised in partnership with the leading business associations representing Indian and Malaysian businesses namely the Consortium of Indian Industries in Malaysia (CIIM) and Malaysia India Business Council (MIBC). The year 2022 also assumes special significance as India celebrates 75 years of its independence i.e. *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* as well as 30 years of ASEAN-India Partnership.

2. 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 for the event. Notable dignitaries included YB Dato Hanifah Hajar Taib, Deputy Minister, PM's Department Sabah and Sarawak Affairs, several Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Senators, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, former Ministers, etc.

3. The India-Malaysia @65 event was attended by over 700 guests which included prominent business and community leaders in Malaysia, members and office bearers of several cultural associations, Presidents and members of various Gurudwaras in Malaysia, academics, think-tanks, media and government officials.

4. The event began with a Special Commemorative Video depicting the longstanding and traditional friendship between India and Malaysia and various facets of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

5. Beginning the official program, **High Commissioner of India H.E. Mr B N Reddy addressed the gathering** and spoke about how India-Malaysia relations have made impressive strides in last six and half decades. India Malaysia ties which were shaped by personal friendship between Prime Ministers Nehru and Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra and further reinforced by strong camaraderie between later leaderships got elevated to the Enhanced Strategic Partnership level during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India H.E. Shri Narendra Modi to Malaysia in 2015. The 2.7 million strong Indian Diaspora in Malaysia has continuously nourished and strengthened the relations. Growing India-Malaysia trade and economic ties have provided the necessary drive and momentum to the relations. Last but not the least, friends of India in Malaysia and friends of Malaysia in India have preserved the trust and essence of our ties. India-Malaysia bilateral ties is on a firm footing today to march towards a brighter future. The thriving people-to-people linkages and vibrant cultural exchanges will continue to inject more energy into the relationship. The complementarities of the two economies offer numerous possibilities and the relationship is poised to reach newer heights in days to come.

6. **Speaking at the occasion, H.E. YB Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia** congratulated the High Commission of India on organising the special event India-Malaysia@65 which commemorates the long-standing traditional friendship between India and Malaysia and expressed the support of the Government of Malaysia to various activities planned for the year commemorating India-Malaysia@65. He conveyed that India-Malaysia relations are not just 65 years old rather they are civilizations old. He expressed his firm belief that Malaysia and India could enhance these relations to greater heights and looked forward to forging new multifaceted cooperation for mutual benefit of the two great nations.

7. During the event, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia together with the High Commission of India H.E. Mr. B N Reddy and the CEO of Institute of Strategic and International and Studies (ISIS) Mr. Herizal

Hazri jointly **launched the ISIS Focus: Malaysia-India@65- Charting the way forward.** The ISIS Focus is both a commemorative piece highlighting the developments during the last 65 and an analytical work of distinguished authors and academics from India and Malaysia examining ways of building relations in the endemic phase of Covid-19.

8. Tan Sri Kuna Sittampalam, Chairman, Malaysia-India Business Council (MIBC) and Datuk Umang Sharma, Chairman, Consortium of Indian Industries in Malaysia (CIIM) also addressed the audience at the occasion.

9. There were exquisite cultural performances by three distinguished dance troupes which included the cultural troupes from **Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)**, New Delhi [*led by Smt Manjula Ramswamy*], **Sutra Foundation** [*led by Padma Shri Datuk Ramli Ibrahim*] and the **ASWARA Dance Troupe** from the Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture (MOTAC) of the Malaysia [*led by Ms Zamzuriah Zahari*].

10. **The ICCR cultural dance Troupe performed – Nrityapranam**, an invocatory piece on lord Vigna Vinayaka and followed by a series of Nritta piece Swaramalika, which is a dynamic rhythmic piece involving complex footwork and striking postures creating an energetic atmosphere for the Rasikas. Followed by piece on Mahishasura Mardini (Good triumphs over Evil) and “Tamasoma Jyothirgamaya” (lead us from darkness to light). **The Sutra Foundation presented the “Chakravaka Pallavi”**. In the Chakravaka Pallavi, performed within the context of pure form of the Pallavi, the archetypal image of the 'temptation of a Sadhu by Yakshas' earth-spirits who are bent on thwarting the meditation of the young inexperienced sadhu. A take from 'The Temptation of Buddha', Sutra male dancers give this classic confrontation, a fresh interpretation. **The Dance Performance by ASWARA** included four types of Malay traditional dance mainly Zapin Abang Adik, Zapin Melayu, Joget Cinta Sayang and Tari Inai. The dances are often performed in festive celebrations, wedding parties, cultural shows, religious ceremonies or other public events.

11. A special Photo exhibition depicting a pictorial story of the journey of India-Malaysia friendship and multifaceted ties was also brought out by the High Commission of India.

**Kuala Lumpur**

**9 September 2022**