

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**. India-Malaysia relations were elevated to **Enhanced Strategic Partnership**, during the **visit** of **PM Shri Narendra Modi** to Malaysia in **November 2015**. During the visit of PM Anwar Ibrahim to India on 19-21 August 2024, the India-Malaysia bilateral ties were elevated to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. 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)**.

2. Indian Dignitaries to Malaysia: High Level VVIP visits since 2015

- i. **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. Prime Minister made a brief stopover in Malaysia on 31 May 2018 to congratulate newly elected Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad. Prime Minister also participated virtually in the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit, convened in Kuala Lumpur on 26 October 2026. Prime Minister also interacted with PM Anwar on the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, on 7 July 2025. The leaders interacted telephonically on 22 October 2025.
- ii. **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.
- 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.

3. Minister Level visits

- i. **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. This was followed by the **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 in November 2023.

ii. **Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh** paid an official visit to Malaysia from July 10 -11, 2023.

iii. **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

iv. **Visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar to Malaysia** on 27-28 March 2024. EAM called on the Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and also held bilateral meetings with Mohamad Hasan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Digital of Malaysia.

v. **Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Environment, Forest and Climate Change** to Malaysia on an official visit from 14-16 September 2024.

vi. **Raja Dato Nushirwan Bin Zainal Abidin, Director General of the National Security Council of Malaysia** visited India from 4-8 January 2025 for the **first India Malaysia Security Dialogue**.

vii. **Visit of YB Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Digital of Malaysia**, leading a Malaysian delegation to participate in Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebrations in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha from 7-9 January 2025.

viii. **Visit of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Tourism and Culture** to Johor, Malaysia, in order to participate in the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting held at Johor Bahru, Malaysia on 20 January 2025.

ix. **Visit of Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles** to Malaysia during 18–19 April, 2025, to inaugurate the India-ASEAN Tourism Pavilion at the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) Fair in Kuala Lumpur, which was held as a part of the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism. MoS (PM) visited Malaysia again on 10-11 July 2025 to participate in ASEAN related meetings.

- x. **Visit of Shri Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence** during 19-22 May 2025 for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2025).
- xi. **Visit of Shri Jitin Prasada, MoS for Commerce and Industry, Electronics and IT** to Malaysia from 24-26 September 2025, for the 22nd ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-India Consultations.
- xii. **Visit of Minister of Labor and Employment** of India Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya to Malaysia (2-4 October 2025), for **World Social Security Forum (WSSF) of the International Social Security Association (ISSA)**, in which **the Minister** accepted the "ISSA Award 2025 for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security".
- xiii. **Visit of External Affairs Minister of India** Dr. S. Jaishankar to Malaysia (26-28 October 2025), for 20th East Asia Summit.
- xiv. **of Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh**, to Malaysia (30 October – 1 November, 2025), for ASEAN India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, as well as the 12TH ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).
- xv. **Visit of Tan Sri Johari bin Abdul, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia**, to India from 13-16 January 2026, for the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).

4. 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;
- (ii) Foreign Office Consultations:** The 5th Secretary Level Foreign Office Consultations was held on 12 April 2022 in Malaysia;
- (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 visit of PM Anwar Ibrahim to India;

(vi) 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.;

(vii) India-Malaysia Security Dialogue: The first security dialogue between the countries was held at New Delhi on 07 January 2025;

(viii) Malaysia India Digital Council (MIDC): constituted under the MoU on cooperation in digital technologies, signed in August 2024. The first meeting of the council was convened on 26 August 2025.

5. Economic & Commercial relations: Overview

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.

India's primary exports to Malaysia consist of mineral fuels, mineral oils, and articles thereof, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, meat and edible meat offal, organic chemicals, natural or cultured pearls, cereals, electrical machinery and equipment, mechanical appliances, edible vegetables and roots, and coffee, tea, mate and spices.

India's major import items from Malaysia are animal or vegetable fats or oils, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, mineral fuels, mineral oils, and articles thereof, electrical machinery and equipment,

organic chemicals, rubber &articles thereof, aluminium & articles thereof, plastic & articles thereof, and copper & articles thereof.

6. Bilateral trade figures

Year Trade	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Export	6.37	6.06	6.99	7.15	7.26	7.36
Import	9.78	8.39	12.42	12.74	12.75	12.54
Total	16.15	14.45	19.41	19.89	20.01	19.9

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

7. Bilateral Investments

(i) Malaysian investments in India

- As per official figures (DPIIT), Malaysia ranks as the 31st largest investor in India with FDI inflow of US\$ 1.29 billion during the period April 2000 to June 2025. (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. Malaysia's National Oil Company Petronas has been operating in India as Petronas India Holdings Company Pvt. Ltd. for the past three decades diversifying its portfolio across various segments. In 2022, Petronas announced that it plans to invest US\$4.1 billion in Tamil Nadu in Green Hydrogen and Ammonia projects. In 2022, Petronas also announced investments worth US\$4 billion in Karnataka for Renewable Energy project. In October 2023, Gentari (wholly-owned RE arm of Petronas) announced acquisition of 30% stake in AM Green Ammonia Holdings BV at an investment of US\$1.6 billion. In July 2023, ReNew Energy Global Plc and Gentari established a 50:50 joint venture to develop 5 GW of renewable energy capacity in India. Khazanah, Malaysian Sovereign Wealth Fund, has been investing in India since 2005. Its current investments are about US\$599.87 million which includes US\$42 million in

India's Wow! Momo Foods in January 2024, US\$40 million in India's Xpressbees in 2023. Malaysia-based IHH Healthcare has acquired 31.1% stake in Fortis healthcare for INR 4,000 Crore (US\$585 million).

- 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.
- Additionally, Khazanah, the Malaysian Sovereign Wealth Fund, has been investing in India since 2005 and operates a representative office in Mumbai.

(ii) **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 Sdn Bhd (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 200 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 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.

(iii) **Bilateral initiatives and Collaboration:** Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) was signed on 3 August 1995, which came into force on 12 April 1997. The Government of India terminated the Agreement on 23 March 2016 to be able to enter into the new model of BIT.

(iv) **Trade settlement in Rupees:** Trade between India and Malaysia can be settled in Indian Rupee (INR) in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies beginning 1st April 2023.

8. Defence and Security 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 Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh paid an official visit to Malaysia from July 10-11, 2023, during which amendment to the MoU was signed. During the visit by Hon'ble RM to Malaysia, the first regional office of HAL was also inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur. Raksha Mantri paid another visit to Malaysia, during 31 October 2025-01 November 2025 for the 12th ADMM-Plus meeting.

The Indian Navy ships regularly pay port visits to Malaysia. INS Sahyadri, indigenous stealth frigate, made a port call at Kemaman port in Malaysia on 2 October 2025. From 16-19 July 2025, INS Sandhayak, Indian Navy's indigenously designed and constructed Survey Vessel (SVL) made its maiden port call at Port Klang, Malaysia. The 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. 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.

Bilateral exercises are a core part of defence cooperation. The 5th edition of the army Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI was conducted in Rajasthan, India from 05-18 December 2025; the bilateral naval Exercise SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA was conducted from Feb 28-March 02 2024 off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

Bilateral Air Exercise UDARA SHAKTI took place at Kuantan Malaysia from 05-10 August 2024.

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. India also participated in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2025 during 19-22 May 2025.

The 13th edition of Malaysia India Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM) meeting took place in Malaysia on 19 February 2025, co-chaired by Defence Secretary Sh. Rajesh Kumar Singh and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Malaysia Mr. Lokman Hakim Bin Ali.

The first India-Malaysia Security Dialogue was convened in January 2025. The Dialogue was chaired by DG, NSC, Malaysia, Raja Dato Nushirwan and NSA, Shri Ajit Doval.

9. Education

India and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2010 for bilateral cooperation in higher education. There are approximately 10,179 Indian students (both in schools and higher education institutes) in Malaysia (February 2025). There are close linkages between the Indian and Malaysian higher educational institutions with over 500 MoUs/Agreements. An estimated 2,000 Malaysian students are studying in India. India offered 40 ITEC slots to Malaysia during the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25, in addition to the 100 additional ITEC slots offered during the State Visit of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to India in August 2024. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers 3 scholarships under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (GSS) and 2 scholarships under the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme (EEP/CEP) 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.

Indian Scholarships and Trust Fund (ISTF) Indian Scholarship and Trust Fund: The ISTF was created in 1946 for the benefit of Malaysian-Indian students. Since 1996, more than RM3.5 million has been disbursed from the ISTF, benefitting more than 1,150 Malaysian Indian students. During FY2024-25, 58 Malaysian-Indian students received RM 229,000 as financial assistance from the ISTF.

10. Traditional Medicine

India and Malaysia signed an MoU on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine in October 2010. The MoU was renewed in August 2024. An Ayurveda Chair has been set up at the University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), since September 2024, under an MoU between UTAR and Institute for technical Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Ministry of AYUSH. The 9th Bilateral Technical Meeting (BTM) on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Medicine took place in Kuala Lumpur in November 2024. Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH participated in the BTM. In December 2025, a Malaysian delegation led at senior official level attended the Global Summit on Traditional Medicine jointly hosted by India and WHO. The 10th Bilateral technical meeting took place on the sidelines of the GSTM.

11. 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. The Centre, in collaboration with the High Commission has organized cultural events during the year, including Republic Day Celebrations, International Yoga Day, Ayurveda and Siddha Day Celebrations, among others.

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.

GOPIO Malaysia and GOPIO International, Malaysia in partnership with the Mission and various community organizations successfully organized the 3rd PIO Day (Apravasi Divas) celebrations in Kuala Lumpur on 11 July 2025. Shri Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles graced the occasion as Chief Guest and jointly inaugurated the 3rd PIO Day celebrations along with YB Senator Saraswathy Kandasami, the then Deputy Minister of Unity of Malaysia.

In August 2025, under the Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) Scheme of MEA, the High Commission organized a cultural event 'India-ASEAN Cultural Harmony' showcasing cultural connections between India and ASEAN. YB M Kulasegaran, DY Minister for Law and Institutional Reform in the Prime Minister's Department graced the event as the Chief Guest.

As a part of elevation of India- Malaysia bilateral relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Universiti Malaya formalized a Memorandum of Agreement in September 2024 to establish a Thiruvalluvar Chair of Indian Studies at Universiti Malaya. The Chair was operationalized in October 2025. An AYUSH academic chair at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) was also operationalized in September 2024.

12. 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 (late) 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.

13. Tourism and Civil Aviation Sector Cooperation

Over 1.43 million Indian tourists visited Malaysia during Jan-Nov 2025, whereas more than 300,000 tourists from Malaysia traveled to India during the year. As of December 2025, **234 flights per week** operated between the two countries, covering 14 destinations in India. These are serviced by three airlines from Malaysia i.e., Malaysia Airlines, Batik Air, AirAsia, and from Indian side two airlines i.e., Air India, and IndiGo.

The Government of Malaysia announced visa-free entry for Indian nationals starting 01 December 2023 to revitalize its tourism sector. The Malaysian government extended the visa waiver for Indian nationals until 31 December 2026, allowing stays of up to 30 days per visit. The Government of India has granted 30-day e-Tourist visas on a gratis basis for Malaysian nationals until 31 December 2026.
