

India established diplomatic relations with the Federation of Malaya (predecessor state of Malaysia) in 1957 immediately after Malaysia's independence. 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. PM Abdullah Badawi (2004-2009) took some important initiatives to develop a closer relationship with India. This trend was strongly reinforced by PM Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak. Presently, India and Malaysia have developed close political, economic and socio-cultural relations. There is a considerable goodwill for India in Malaysia at people to people level, which hosts the third largest PIO community in the world.

India and Malaysia are witnessing growing engagements in all aspects of bilateral relationship, including political, economic and trade, defence and security, tourism and education, health, human resources, public administration, etc.

Bilateral VVIP visits

Visit of Malaysian Dignitaries to India

- PM Tuanku Abdul Rahman-1962
- Two visits of 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-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

Visit of 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-2005/2010
- PM Shri Narendra Modi-2015/2018

PM Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Malaysia from 26-28 October 2010. During the visit, 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 also accepted India's invitation to be 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 Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms

The following institutional mechanisms have been established between India and Malaysia:

- *Joint Commission Meeting (JCM): Foreign Ministers of both countries head a Joint Commission. It held its fifth meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 3 May 2011.*
- *Foreign Office Consultations: Last meeting of the Secretary-level FOC was held in January 2015 in New Delhi.*
- *India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM): The 11th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM) chaired by the Secretaries of the two Defence Ministries, was held in Kuala Lumpur on 21 November 2018.*
- *India-Malaysia CEOs' Forum: During PM Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Malaysia from 26 to 28 October 2010, both countries established an India-Malaysia CEOs' Forum to develop enhanced partnership and cooperation at the business level. The last meeting of reconstituted CEOs' Forum took place in Kuala Lumpur on 14 February 2019.*
- *Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime*
- *Joint Committee on Science and Technology*
- *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 on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Medicine*

Bilateral Agreements/ MOUs

The two countries have signed a number of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding from time-to-time in different sectors, the prominent among which are: MoU on Defence Cooperation (1993); MoU between Security Commissions of Malaysia and India (1993); Agreement on Promotion & Protection of Investment (1995);

Agreement on Double Taxation (2001); MoU on Employment and Welfare of Workers (2009); MoU on Cooperation in the field of Higher Education (2010); Cooperation relating to provision of Technical Assistance Services on Highway Management & Development (2010); Revised Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (2010); Comprehensive Economic and Cooperation Agreement (CECA) (2010); the bilateral Extradition Treaty (January 2011); Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (2012); MoU on Cooperation in Renewable Energy (2012); MoU on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Custom Matters (2013); MoU on Tourism (2013); MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine (2013); MoU on Cooperation in IT & Services (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); MoU on Mutual Recognition of Educational Degrees and Certificates between AIU and MQA(2017); and MOU on UN Linkages with Malaysia in November 2018.

Economic & commercial relations

- Economic and commercial relations are the mainstay of our bilateral partnership. A bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering goods, services and investment has come into effect from 1 July 2011.
- In 2018-19, the bilateral trade was US\$ 17.24 billion, with India's exports being US\$ 6.43 billion and imports being US\$ 10.81 billion. Malaysia is 13th largest trading partner for India while India figures among the ten largest trading partners for Malaysia.

Bilateral Trade India-Malaysia:

Year Trade	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Export	3.98	4.44	4.19	5.81	3.70	5.22	5.70	6.43
Import	9.47	9.95	9.22	11.11	9.08	8.93	9.01	10.81
Total	13.45	14.39	13.41	16.92	12.78	14.15	14.71	17.24

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

India's major exports items to Malaysia are mineral fuels, mineral oils; aluminum 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 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, aluminum, organic chemicals, iron and steel and miscellaneous chemical products.

Investments

As DPIIT, Malaysia ranks as the 24th largest investor in India with FDI inflow of US\$ 932.19 million which constitutes 0.22% of total FDI inflows of US\$ 421 billion into India during the period April 2000 to March 2019.

- *The prime interest for Malaysian companies to invest in India is 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.*
- *Indian investments in Malaysia: As of December 2018, Indian companies have invested in 258 approved manufacturing projects of over US\$ 2.30 billion (RM 9.30 billion) in Malaysia creating an estimated 27,042 jobs in Malaysia. (Source: MITI, GoM)*

Defence Cooperation:

- *India's defence relations with Malaysia have gained momentum during recent years. The MoU on Defence Cooperation signed in 1993 is the cornerstone of defence relations between the two countries. The Malaysian Defence Minister visited India in June 2006 and in April 2017. Our Raksha Mantri visited Malaysia in January 2008 and again in November 2015 (multilateral).*
- *Regular Staff Talks between the Services at apex level have been extremely successful and have made meaningful contribution in enhancing defence cooperation. Indian Air Force Pilots trained Malaysian counterparts on Su-30 MKM aircrafts in 2008-2010, of which initial phase of the training was conducted in India and final phase in Malaysia.*

Education

- *About 2,000 Indian students are studying in Malaysia, while an estimated 4,000 Malaysian students are studying in India, mostly medicine. An MoU on Higher Education was signed on 20 January 2010 during PM Najib's visit to India. Two meetings of the JWG on Higher Education have already taken place in October 2011 and April 2013.*
- *India has offered 30 slots under ITEC program for 2019-20 and 3 slots under ICCR General Scholarship Scheme. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers 2 scholarships under the General Scholarship Scheme (GSS) and 2 scholarships under the Education Exchange Programme (EEP) every year. Malaysians 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 Malaysia to pursue Bachelor degree in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy medicine in Indian institutions / colleges under Ministry of Ayush.*

Indian Scholarship & Trust Fund (ISTF)

- *The Indian Scholarship and Trust Fund was created in 1946 by PM Nehru to benefit and assist Malaysian-Indian students on an annual basis. The unclaimed quarantine amount deposited by the Indian workers who came to Malaya during the colonial days by Ships became the seed money for ISTF. Over the years, the corpus of the Fund has been augmented by contributions from other Indian PMs, including Shri Narendra Modi who gave additional grant of RM 3 million during*

his visit to Malaysia in November, 2015. Since 2006, more than RM2.19 million has been disbursed from the ISTF, benefiting more than 750 Malaysian Indian students. For 2019-2020, 55 Malaysian-Indian students studying in various universities in Malaysia, were awarded a total of RM 3,00,000 in scholarship.

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. In addition to the AYUSH Information Cell in Indian Cultural Centre since 2010, one Ayurveda doctor and two therapists, and a Siddha doctor have been deputed to Malaysia for the last four years. The 6th meeting was held on 6 August 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, in which Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary AYUSH, Sh P N Ranjit Kumar.

Cultural Cooperation/IDY/Bapu@150 celebrations:

- A new Indian Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur, under ICCR was established in February 2010 which conducts classes in Carnatic Vocal, Kathak dance, Yoga, Hindi language and Tabla by trained teachers from India and Malaysia. The Centre was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose ICC by our PM during his visit to Malaysia in November 2015.

Persons of India Origin (PIOs)

- Total number of Persons of Indian Origin is around 2.75 million (about 9% of Malaysia's population). 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. The largest ever Malaysian contingent (around 527) led by Tan Sri SA Vigneswaran, the president of the Upper House and also president of MIC participated in PBD Convention in Varanasi in January 2019.

Indian community/ Consular/Manpower Issues:

- There are approx. 2,25,000 NRIs in Malaysia.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Shayata Kendra (PBSK) at the High Commission ensures welfare and safety of distressed Indian nationals. The PBSK is a 24X7 grievance redressal centre that provides assistance such as repatriation, immigration facilitation, resolution of disputes with employers etc.
- 14,306 Emergency Certificates were issued to Indian nationals in 2019 as compared to 9,150 in 2018. 50,234 visas were issued to Malaysian nationals in 2019 as compared to 1,41,533 in 2018. This does not include the numbers of Malaysians travelling to India on e-Visa and OCI cards.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Sector Cooperation

- Air links have improved significantly following a bilateral agreement in 2007 to

increase the seat capacity to six major destinations in India and provision for multiple destinations and designating any number of airlines to operate on the India-Malaysia routes. A revised ASA was signed in New Delhi in April 2017 during the visit of PM Najib.

- *India is the sixth largest source country for inbound tourism to Malaysia with over 6,00,000 Indian tourists visiting Malaysia in 2018. Malaysia was the sixth largest source country for foreign tourists visiting India with 3,22,126 Malaysian tourists. An MoU on Tourism was signed during our PM's visit to Malaysia in 2010.*
- *Presently, there are over 224 weekly flights connecting 19 Indian cities with Malaysia. Three Malaysian carriers, Malaysian Airlines, Malindo Air and Air Asia fly to India. They cover 19 cities and operate 213 flights weekly. IndiGo, presently the only Indian carrier, started its flights on KL-Delhi and KL-Bengaluru routes from 15 November 2018. IndiGo Flight from Kuala Lumpur to Chennai has been in operation since August 2019.*

3 February 2020