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INDIAN-MALAYSIAN BILATERAL TIES TO FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN TALKS

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Indian-Malaysian bilateral relations will figure prominently in talks between Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when the former arrives in Malaysia for the G-15 Summit beginning Nov 3.

The two leaders will take stock of bilateral trade and economic relations at their meetings in Kuala Lumpur and at a retreat, according to an official spokesperson who briefed newsmen on the G-15 Summit yesterday.

Bilateral trade between India and Malaysia has gone up five-fold during the last three years -- from US\$696 million in the April 1994 to March 1995 period to US\$3,498 million in the April 1996 to March 1997 period, according to an official background paper for the meeting.

Malaysia's investment in India has also surged during the course of the current calendar year and Malaysia has for the first time entered the field of power generation and transmission in the country, said the monthly bulletin of the Secretariat of Industrial Approval and India Investment Centre of the Ministry of Industry.

A 30-member strong business delegation from all the three Indian chambers of commerce will be in Malaysia during the course of the Summit.

At the last Summit, Malaysia put forward a new project for cooperation between G-15 countries.

The project relates to identification of Centres of Educational Excellence in each of the G-15 country and the offer of placement and short-term fellowships to member countries in the respective centres.

Gujral is expected to announce something significant in this regard, the official spokesperson said without giving any details.

Existing projects within the G-15 include cooperation in gene banks, medicinal and aromatic plants, applications of solar energy, computer training, vocational training centre/entrepreneur and technical development, and small-scale industries. -- BERNAMA

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