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# Future of Malaysia-India ties looks good, says PM



DATUK Seri Najib Razak concluded the first part of his two-leg state visit to India with positive impressions about the future of Malaysia-India relations.

At a press conference after concluding his assignment here, the prime minister said he felt very positive after discussions with his Indian counterpart, Dr Manmohan Singh.

"My discussion with him was very encouraging. We both feel that we can work together effectively to realise the full potential of our relations," Najib said.

The positive response has validated attempts to build strategic partnership between the two countries, the prime minister said, pointing out that several initiatives were being undertaken to help lay the foundation for a mutually-beneficial future.

Asked if there were any specifics, Najib said the signing of three agreements and memorandum of understanding on Wednesday would certainly pave the way for future cooperation.

Najib and Manmohan witnessed the signing of an extradition treaty, a Malaysia-India capital



Datuk Seri Najib Razak (left) with Rahul Gandhi, the secretary-general of Congress Party, at a meeting in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP picture

market collaboration agreement between the Securities Commission and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and a memorandum of understanding on higher education.

Yesterday, he witnessed the signing of a MoU between Melaka Biotech Holdings, Vivo Bio Tech Limited and Vanguard Creative Technologies Sdn Bhd.

Asked to comment on the latest MoU, Najib said the project was another evidence of match-making which hopefully would yield good research and commercial results.

A tourism MoU is also being finalised. With 600,000 Indian arrivals in Malaysia, the figure could increase, especially with the possibility of more flights and new routes being negotiated.

The prime minister said Malaysian companies should seriously consider bidding for construction jobs in India, especially since India has budgeted US\$500 billion (RM1.68 trillion) in the next five years for infrastructure projects.

In his discussion with top Indian businessmen, the prime minister said they had also expressed interest in investing in Malaysia.

Apart from investing in pharmaceutical and ICT projects, there is also interest in using Malaysia for Bollywood movies.

Najib reiterated his optimism for the end-year conclusion of talks on the establishment of the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and the setting up of a bilateral CEO forum.

The prime minister said India also thanked him for the Seremban-Gemas double tracking rail project awarded to Ircon, a big Indian construction company.

Before departing for Chennai, Rahul Gandhi, the secretary-general of the Congress Party, paid a courtesy call on the prime minister.

Najib had on Wednesday met Rahul's mother, Sonia Gandhi, who is head of the party.

Meanwhile, Bernama reports Najib as saying he would leave the investigations into the alleged involvement of businessmen, political aides and government servants selling sand to a neighbouring country to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

"Let the MACC conduct its investigation. If there is (an element of) corruption or misuse of power, it is up to the MACC and the attorney-general to decide if there is a case or not.

"Those found guilty would have to face punishment, let's wait for the outcome of the investigations."