

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	15 DECEMBER 2016

# PM: Asia must take control of its destiny

NST-15/12/2016

**ASIAN CENTURY:** He envisions a region where nations harness their diversity and work together

**M. HAMZAH JAMALUDIN  
AND ZAFIRA ANWAR**

KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**M**ALAYSIA'S success in implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and anti-terrorism measures is being shared with many countries, including India.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said information on GST was shared with a high-level delegation from India that visited Malaysia recently.

"In connection with the Indian government's plans to roll out GST in 2017, we are happy to share our experience of GST introduction with them."

Najib, who was the chief guest at *The Economic Times*' Asian Business Leaders Conclave here yesterday, said this in his address.

*The Economic Times*, an Indian English-language daily, is the world's second-most widely read business newspaper, after *The Wall Street Journal*.

Although both countries deal with

GST in different geographies and face different challenges, Najib said they shared a mutual resolve to provide a transparent and predictable tax regime, as well as protection of intellectual property rights.

"We have both gained from sharing our observations and expertise in these areas."

On terrorism, Najib said Malaysia was willing to share its Integrated Deradicalisation Module for Terrorist with other countries.

"I myself have experience in working with the Indian government, both in my past capacity as defence minister and as prime minister, to bolster our fight against the common threats we face."

He said tactical measures on the security front were an important part of maintaining and building trust and confidence, turning the strategic partnership into a reality that would protect the people in both countries.

He said the 21st century was set to be the Asian Century, with the construction of new institutions and frameworks that came from the continent, formulated by its people or

based in the region.

"The centre of gravity of power, population and prosperity has long been shifting eastwards, and it is right that we should take responsibility for, and control of, our own destinies.

"We seek friendly relations with all, but the days when far-off powers seek to dictate the futures and policies of Asian countries are over."

He said a "borderless Asia" was one where countries harnessed their diversity and worked together inclusively and sustainably.

"It is one in which we rely on our own innovation to create new technologies, foster our own talent and set new global standards for corporate governance, productivity and dynamism."

With a youthful and increasingly well-educated population, he said, Asian countries must take steps to forge stronger ties, learn from each other, share best practices and seek new ways of collaboration.

On the conclave, he said the inaugural event was held at the right time as Indo-Malaysian relations were at a historical high, enhanced by the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

He said India had been Malaysia's largest export destination in South Asia since 1998, adding that last year's trade with India was almost RM47 billion, an increase of 3.5 per cent from 2014.