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DIVERSITY

# PM: Indians at forefront of nation building

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**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak paid a glowing tribute to Malaysian Indians who have always been at the “forefront” of nation building.

When addressing Indian captains of industry at the Malaysian-India Business Forum at the Taj Palace Hotel here, Najib said Malaysia’s achievements and progress could not have been achieved without the contributions of Malaysian Indians.

“Malaysian Indians have played a key role in the building of our nation.

“They have always been at the forefront – within the govern-



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak chairing a roundtable meeting with Indian captains of industry in New Delhi yesterday. He is flanked by Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican (left) and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed. BERNAMA PIC*

ment, our civil service, business, entertainment, education and, of course, food, which as you may know, is very important to Malaysians.”

Najib told the audience that

Malaysian Indians were a crucial part of Malaysia’s unique diversity.

“Their culture and faith make up the rich and varied tapestry of our nation.

“I can truly say that without Indian Malaysians, Malaysia simply would not be what it is today.

“As such, they constitute a very special reason why it is so natural for our two countries to

forge ever closer and friendlier relations.”

Malaysian Indians make up 7.3 per cent of Malaysia’s population, forming the largest population of Indians outside India.