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Rajasthan wants M'sian involvement in water projects

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JAIPUR: Rajasthan, the biggest state in India but with only 1% of the country's water resources, is inviting Malaysian companies to participate in various water infrastructure projects.

Its chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia said the central government has a plan to construct a 850km canal from neighbouring Gujarat and use sea water to solve water woes in the state which is known for its deserts.

"We want to desalinate sea water, and are also planning to build large dams.

"Water is a big problem for us. So Malaysian companies with expertise can participate in these big projects," she said.

She told Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and the Malaysian delegation attending a briefing on projects and investment opportunities in Rajasthan yesterday that the sides of the canal would have highways and railways.

Vasundhara said Rajasthan, known for its natural attractions, historical sites and state parks, has many good investment opportunities for Malaysian investors.

Among the major projects being offered are construction of roads and highways, four smart cities, affordable housing, mining



Forging a partnership: Najib with his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Vasundhara (on Najib's left) during a photography session upon arrival at the Taj Rambagh in Rajasthan. — Bernama

and transportation.

At the moment, several road and highway projects worth several billion US dollars are under discussion with Malaysian parties, she said.

Vasundhara had recently announced work on 5,000km of

new roads and 1,000km of state highways.

Najib, who is here as part of his six-day official visit to India, said in the meeting that several Malaysian road builders were currently bidding for state road projects spanning more than

3,000km in Rajasthan.

Vasundhara added that tourism was one of the biggest money earners for the state, and they were focusing on medical tourism and golf tourism to attract more foreign tourists. — Bernama