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## India-Malaysia Relations, Economy, Defence, Tourism and Diaspora/Cultural Relations

### India-Malaysia Relations

- 1957: Established diplomatic relations with the Federation of Malaya
- India PM visited Malaysia in October 2010.
- The text of CECA has been agreed upon. Will be implemented for July 1, 2011.
- Collaboration in defence sector and infrastructure development.
- To step up cabinet level exchanges in numerous areas
- India-Malaysia would liberalize their respective investment regimes to facilitate greater foreign direct investment into each other's territory.
- MoU on cooperation in the traditional systems of medicine makes India the second country with which Malaysia has inked such a pact.
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism
- MoU on cooperation in the field of IT & Services
- Cultural Exchange Programme Agreement between CSIR and UNIK of Malaysia
- To set up a joint working group on Counterterrorism

### Economy

- Economic and Commercial relations are emerging as the mainstay of the bilateral relationship
- Malaysia is the second largest trading partner for India within ASEAN
- India is the largest trading partner for Malaysia from among the countries of the South Asia, excluding China
- CECA (likely to be asked)

- Came into force on July 1, 2011
- India Malaysia CEOs forum launched
- Bilateral trade
  - 2010: USD 8.94 bn
  - India's exports: USD 2.47 bn
  - India's imports: USD 6.47 bn
- Expected to cross USD 10 bn in 2011 due to the implementation of CECA
- 21<sup>st</sup> largest investor in India
- Maxis Comm in Aircel, Axiata in IDEA, Khazanah in IDFC
- Malaysian construction companies' largest presence outside Malaysia is in India
  - They have completed 52 construction projects worth USD 2.34 bn in India
  - Under partnership with Malaysian Airports, GMR completed airport in Hyderabad and Delhi
- India is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest investor in Malaysia
- Reliance, IRCON

## Defence

- 1993: MoU on defence cooperation
- Malaysia-Indian Defence Cooperation meetings (MIDCOM) held regularly

## Tourism

India is the sixth largest source country for inbound tourism to Malaysia while Malaysia is the tenth largest for India

## Diaspora/Cultural Relations

- Malaysian students studying in India and vice versa
- About 150,000 legally recruited Indian workers in Malaysia in both the skilled and semi-skilled category
- Malaysia has one of the largest communities of PIOs in the world, numbering close to 2 million (7.1% of Malaysian population)
  - Overwhelmingly Tamil speaking
  - Malaysian Indian Congress is the dominant political organisation of the PIOs
  - PIOs from Malaysia have been sending the largest contingents to the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas
- Some important Malaysian Indians
  - Tony Fernandes: CEO of Air Asia
  - Ash Nair: Musician

- Jaclyn Victor: Singer and actress

## Problems

- Unfair treatment of non-Muslims and non-Malays
  - Islam is the state religion. About 60% of the people are Muslims
  - Lately, Malaysian government's stance with regard to constraining religious assertion has been against non-Muslims
- Economic condition of many Indians is bad  
They are not provided the support that is given to the Muslims and Malays by the government

## Brunei

See the MEA brief

## Myanmar

- Is the land bridge for India to connect with ASEAN countries
- Discussed in detail in another note.