

16 MAY 2001

Vajpayee-Departure

VAJPAYEE LEAVES MALAYSIA AFTER FOUR-DAY VISIT

SEPANG, May 16 (Bernama) -- Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee left for home today after a four-day visit to Malaysia aimed at enhancing bilateral ties in various fields.

He was seen off at the KL International Airport's Bunga Raya Complex by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Also present were Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus, who was the minister-in-attendance, and Indian High Commissioner to Malaysia Veena Sikri.

The special Air India aircraft carrying Vajpayee and his 135-member delegation took off at 2.20pm.

Earlier today, Vajpayee delivered a keynote address on "India and Asean -- Shared Perspective" organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

Vajpayee had discussions with his Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, on various international and regional issues of mutual concern.

India and Malaysia also signed several agreements and memorandums of understanding covering, among others, trade, visa exemptions and avoidance of double taxation.

Yesterday, Vajpayee delivered a keynote address at the Malaysia-India Business Forum and visited the Malaysia Technology Show at the Putra World Trade Centre.

This was Vajpayee's first visit to Malaysia since becoming prime minister in 1999.

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