

28/11/2003

New Indian High Commissioner

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The new Indian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Rajamani Laxmi Narayan, will arrive in Malaysia within a month, outgoing High Commissioner Veena Sikri said today.

Narayan is currently India's ambassador to Poland.

Sikri, who announced the name of her successor to the Press during a farewell call on the dean of the diplomatic corps in Malaysia, Kenyan High Commissioner James Kihui Karuga, said: "My next posting is as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh. I will leave on Dec 8."

Sikri, who served in Malaysia for three years and three months, said she would miss Malaysia as the people "were very, very friendly".

Before she leaves for Bangladesh, Sikri hopes to witness the signing of an agreement next week to set up a chair of contemporary Indian studies at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and a chair of contemporary Malay studies at the University of Madras in India.

She will also open the Indian Cultural Centre at the High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

Sikri, who paid a farewell visit to Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar earlier today, said there were many high-level bilateral visits during her term, especially former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad visiting India last year and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visiting Malaysia twice.

On the "Incredible India 2003" to be held at Putra World Trade Centre from Dec 2 to 6, Sikri said 275 companies from India would be participating in the trade exhibition.

"We see great potential in Malaysia-India bilateral ties through the trade exhibition and hope it will further improve business relationship between the two countries and those in the Asean region."

She said there would also be a one-day trade seminar besides the series of events planned in conjunction with the exhibition.

The highlights would be the cuisine festival and fashion show to be held at Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The whole event would start on Sunday with India's film industry staging a musical tribute to one of India's legendary filmmakers, Yash Chopra, at Genting Highlands.

The event is organised in collaboration with Genting's Resorts World Bhd and Astro.