

Modi Arrives KL Saturday For ASEAN-India, East Asia Summits

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NEW DELHI, Nov 18 (BERNAMA) -- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday to attend the 13th ASEAN-India Summit and 10th East Asia Summit being held simultaneously with the 27th ASEAN Summit.

Ministry of External Affairs secretary (east) Anil Wadhwa said the ASEAN-India Summit would review cooperation among the participating countries and set the future direction.

Besides enhancing cooperation in the security, economic and social fields, the leaders would also exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest or concern, he said at a media briefing here Wednesday.

He said Modi was expected to witness the signing of the '2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community' and the 'Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together'.

Anil said India and ASEAN had 30 dialogue mechanisms, including a summit and seven ministerial meetings involving external affairs, commerce, tourism, agriculture, environment, renewable energy and telecommunications.

ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner, and India in turn is the sixth largest trading partner of ASEAN.

Indian exports to the ASEAN countries stand at US\$31.81 billion, and imports from ASEAN, US\$44.71 billion.

On the East Asia Summit, Anil said India, a founding member, remained committed to strengthening the summit and making it more effective for dealing with current challenges.

Besides ASEAN and India, the East Asia Summit also encompasses Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

The ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit will be chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as Malaysia is the 2015 chair of ASEAN.

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