

## **Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.**

**Dated : 31/01/2024**

### **India-Thailand Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. India and Thailand, located in each other's extended neighborhood, share a maritime boundary in the Andaman Sea. India's bilateral relations with Thailand are rooted in history, age-old social and cultural interactions and extensive people to people contacts. A large Indian diaspora living and working in Thailand is another important bond.
2. Thailand plays an important role in various regional and sub-regional groupings. It is, therefore, an important partner for India in the India-ASEAN Summit Level Partnership, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

#### **B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures**

3. As per India's Foreign trade classification system, Thailand falls under Region 15 : BIMSTEC countries as a trading partner and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCI&S database, India's exports to Thailand from April'23-January'24 have been recorded at USD 3.29 billion and India's imports from Thailand during the same period stands at USD 6.81 billion with a resultant trade balance deficit of 3.52 billion US Dollar.
4. Thailand views India as the gateway to South Asia and beyond. As a result of the reduced tariff rates and new initiatives adopted by both the countries, trade between two countries increased manifold in recent years. In 2020-21, despite the pandemic situation, the total trade figures stood at US\$ 9.91 billion. In 2022-23, it reached a record high of around US\$ 16.90 billion. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2018-19 to 2022-23 are as under:

**Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2018-19 to 2022-23 are as follows :**

#### **Export-Import statistics from 2018-19 to 2022-23**

**(US Dollar Billion)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>
2018-19	11.88	7.44	4.44
2019-20	11.08	6.78	4.29
2020-21	9.91	5.68	4.23
2021-22	15.08	9.33	5.74
2022-23	16.90	11.19	5.71

*(Source: Department of Commerce, India)*

### **Thailand's top imported goods from India:**

- Iron & Steel, products of Iron & Steel.
- Drug formulation.
- Auto Components.
- Aluminium & products of aluminium.
- Indl. machinery for Dairy etc.
- IC Engines & Parts.

### **India's top imported goods from Thailand:**

- Vegetable oils.
- Organic Chemicals.
- Paper, paper board and products thereof.
- Residual chemical and allied products.
- Plastic Raw Materials.

5. Major Indian companies in Thailand include – Tata Steel Thailand, Tata Consultancy Services, Aditya Birla Group, Tech Mahindra, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd., L&T, Royal Enfield, Bajaj Auto.

6. Leading Thai companies in the fields of agro-processing, construction, automotive, engineering and banking have active and growing business presence in India. Major Thai companies with active participation in India are – Charoen Pokphand Group, Italian Thai Development PCL, The Thai Union Frozen Products PCL, Thai Summit Neel Auto Pvt. Ltd., Delta Electronics(Thailand) PCL.

**C. Other Major Areas of Co-operation between the two nations are :** Defence, Culture & Tourism, Education and ports.

**Source:** [Prepared based on MEA's August, 2023 Report.](#)

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