
India- Thailand Bilateral Brief

India and Thailand have historically enjoyed warm bilateral relations. The diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1947 and both sides celebrated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2022. In April 2025, during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Thailand, the two countries elevated the relations to a Strategic Partnership.

2. The 'Act West' policy of Thailand complements India's 'Act East' policy. Thailand is also India's maritime neighbour. Bilateral ties are multifaceted and cover a wide spectrum of areas including trade and investment; defence and security; connectivity; culture and tourism; education; science and technology; and people to people exchanges.

3. Thailand is an important partner of India in ASEAN; the East Asia Summit (EAS); the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC); the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC); the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD); the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA); and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

High Level Exchanges

4. High level visits and meetings have taken place on a regular basis between both the sides.

5. At the invitation of then Prime Minister of Thailand (Ms.) Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (PM) visited Bangkok, Thailand for the 6th BIMSTEC Summit and Official Visit on 03-04 April 2025. During the visit, PM had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Thailand on 03 April in the Government House; and had a Royal Audience with their majesties the King and the Queen of Thailand on 04 April.

6. PM earlier briefly met then Prime Minister of Thailand (Ms.) Paetongtarn Shinawatra on the sidelines of 44th and 45th ASEAN and Related Summits in Vientiane on 11 October 2024.

7. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Thailand from 02-04 November 2019 to attend the 16th ASEAN and Related Summits. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a community event “Sawasdee PM Modi” on 02 November; had a bilateral meeting with then Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha on 03 November; and also released a special commemorative coin to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji and the Thai translation of Tamil book, Thirukkural.

8. Further, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and then Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha met on the sidelines of G-20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28 June 2019. They also met on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Singapore on 14 November 2018; and on the margins of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 31 August 2018.

9. From Thailand, then Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha visited India from 24-26 January 2018 for the India-ASEAN Special Commemorative Summit and as a Guest of Honour for the Republic Day Parade along with other ASEAN leaders. Earlier, then Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha paid a state visit to India from 16-18 June 2016, and held extensive dialogue with various interlocutors.

Foreign Ministers Meetings

10. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand (Mr.) Sihasak Phuangketkeow paid an official visit to New Delhi from 12-14 May 2026 for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM). He also had bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar, and also called on the Prime Minister along with other BRICS Foreign Ministers.

11. Earlier, Foreign Minister of Thailand (Mr.) Sihasak Phuangketkeow paid an official visit to New Delhi from 30 November-01 December 2025. On 01 December, EAM held delegation-level talks with SP. Foreign Minister of Thailand also called on the National Security Adviser, Shri Ajit Doval. EAM earlier met Foreign Minister (Mr.) Sihasak Phuangketkeow on the sidelines of 47th ASEAN and related Meetings in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia on 27 October 2025.

12. Then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand (Mr.) Maris Sangiampongsa visited New Delhi to attend Raisina Dialogue on 17-19 March 2025. During the visit, he had a meeting with EAM and also joint call on with Prime Minister along

with other Foreign Ministers. He also visited New Delhi from 01-02 November 2024 to attend the Royal Kathina Ceremony, offering robes to Buddhist monks and also for the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat hosted by EAM on 11-13 July 2024.

13. The then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (DPM/FM) of Thailand (Dr.) Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara visited India on 26-28 February 2024. EAM co-chaired the 10th edition of the India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting with DPM/FM on 28 February 2024.

14. EAM visited Bangkok from 15-18 July 2023 to co-chair the Mekong - Ganga Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting (MCG FMM), along with the Foreign Minister of Lao PDR, and also to participate in the first BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' (FMs) Retreat hosted by Thailand in Bangkok. EAM paid a joint call on then Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha on 17 July 2023 along with other BIMSTEC FMs.

15. Earlier, EAM visited Bangkok from 16-18 August 2022 to co-chair the 9th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission with (Mr.) Don Pramudwinai, then DPM/FM of Thailand on 17 August 2022.

16. Thailand participated in the first two editions of the Voice of Global South Summit organised by India. On 12 January 2023, then Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha participated, through a pre-recorded video message. During the second edition, (DPM/FM) (Dr.) Parnpree Bahiddha-

Nukara virtually addressed the second Foreign Minister's session of Summit on 17 November 2023.

Other High Level Meetings

17. Minister of Commerce of Thailand (Ms.) Suphajee Suthumpun led a delegation of 17 Thai eco-building and sustainable product firms to Mumbai to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation from 07-09 January 2026.

18. Then Secretary (East), Shri P. Kumaran, attended the International Conference on the Global Partnership Against Online Scams organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in Bangkok on 17-18 December 2025 in Bangkok. During the visit, he also had a bilateral meeting with Ms. Eksiri Pintaruchi, Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 17 December 2025.

19. A high-level delegation from the Constitutional Court of Thailand, led by Dr. Nakharin Mektrairat, President of the Constitutional Court, undertook a visit to India from 04-09 August 2025.

20. Minister of State (Home Affairs) Shri Nityanand Rai visited Bangkok from 25-27 June 2025 to attend the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, organized by UNESCAP in Bangkok.

21. A delegation from the State of Arunachal Pradesh, led by Shri Nyato Dukam, Minister for Trade & Commerce, visited Thailand from 26-30 May 2025, to participate in THAIFEX-ANUGA ASIA 2025, the leading food and beverage trade fair in the Asia Pacific.

22. Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Shri Suman Bery visited Thailand from 24-28 February 2025 to attend the 12th edition of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok. During the visit, he had separate meetings with Minister of Commerce; Tourism and Sports of Thailand; and Industry of Thailand. He also met Advisor to the Prime Minister and the President of Thailand Trade Representatives; and the Under-Secretary-General of the UNESCAP.

23. Minister of State for Communications, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar visited Bangkok from 15-17 January 2025 to attend the 5th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings. During the visit, he met (Mr.) Prasert Chantararuangthong, (then) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand, and discussed issues of mutual interest.

24. Ambassadors of India, Australia, Japan & the Cd'A of the US in Thailand jointly presented 200,000 doses of Made in India Covovax vaccines to Thailand under the Quad Vaccine Partnership on 21 April 2022. This was part of the commitment made by PM at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington DC in September 2021 to donate 500,000 doses of COVID vaccines to countries in the Indo-Pacific region under the Quad Vaccine Partnership.

Parliamentary Interaction

25. Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha met (Mr.) Mongkol Surasajja, President of the Senate of Thailand on the sidelines of the 149th Assembly of

IPU in Geneva on 15 October 2024. Earlier, he had met (Mr.) Chuan Leekpai, then Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand on the sidelines of P20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia on 07 October 2022.

26. A 14 member delegation from the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs led by its Chairperson, Senator (Mrs.) Pikulkeaw Krairiksh, visited India from 05-08 February 2024. During the visit, they called on Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha, and EAM. They also met the members of Departmental Related Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms

27. **Joint Commission Meeting** : The 10th round of JCM was held in New Delhi on 27 February 2024. EAM and then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (DPM/FM) of Thailand (Dr.) Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara co-chaired the meeting. The entire gamut of bilateral relations was reviewed during the meeting.

28. **Foreign Office Consultations** : The 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Thailand, co-chaired by then Secretary (East), Shri Saurabh Kumar and then Thai Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Mr.) Sarun Charoensuwan, were held on 07 August 2023 in Bangkok.

29. **Bilateral Dialogues**: India and Thailand have institutionalized various dialogue mechanisms such as Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation; on Education; on Visa and Consular matters; and Joint Task Force on Maritime

Cooperation. The two sides meet regularly to discuss bilateral cooperation and international developments in these areas.

Defence Cooperation

30. The Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation between India and Thailand was signed on 25 January 2012. The ongoing defence cooperation initiatives comprise of defence dialogue, joint maritime patrolling by the navies of both countries, annual staff talks, subject matter expert exchange visits and training of officers at each other's institutions, trilateral/multilateral military exercises etc. As part of enhancing defence cooperation, a Defence Conclave was organized on 19–20 February 2026 to present Indian defence capabilities in a structured and credible manner.

Economic & Commercial Cooperation

31. The bilateral trade between India and Thailand has increased manifold in recent years. As per the Department of Commerce (DOC) of India, the total bilateral trade in 2025 was around USD 21 billion with over USD 10 billion surplus in favor of Thailand.

32. Major Indian companies in Thailand include the Tata group – Tata Steel Thailand, and Tata Consultancy Services, Aditya Birla Group, Tech Mahindra, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd., L&T, Bajaj Auto, Royal Enfield, NRB Bearing, Ranbaxy, Camber Pharmaceuticals Coforge Ltd, Usha Siam Steel Industries PLC, KEC International, Thermax, Polyplex, Apollo Tyres, etc.

33. Leading Thai companies in the fields of agro-processing, construction, automotive and engineering have active and growing business presence in India. Some of the notable Thai companies active 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, Srithai Superware PCL (Melamine tableware manufacturing), Siam Makro PCL, Global Renewable Synergy Co., etc.

Cultural and Tourism Cooperation and Connectivity

34. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, has been a regular visitor to India. She is a recipient of Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace (2004); first World Sanskrit Award (2016); and Padma Bhushan (2017). Further, Chaokhun Phra Sineenatha Bilasakalyani, Royal Noble Consort visited Gaya, Varanasi, Sarnath and Kushinagar from 21 to 30 January 2026. In addition to this, HRH Princess Sirivannavari Nariratna Rajakanya visited Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Agra from 06-11 February 2026.

35. As requested by the Government of Thailand, Government of India sent the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha, along with two of his main disciples, Arahant Sariputta and Arahant Maha Moggallana for public exposition from 22 February to 19 March 2024. Over a period of 25 days, more than 4 million devotees from different parts of Thailand and its neighboring countries in Mekong region paid tributes to the Sacred Relics.

36. An Indian Cultural Centre was opened in Bangkok in September 2009 *[it has since been renamed as the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre]*. The

India-Thailand Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the years 2022-2027 was signed by Minister of Culture of India and Minister of Culture of Thailand in a virtual ceremony held on 22 December 2022. Regular visits of Indian cultural troupes to Thailand, in addition to Indian films, food and other festivals, are organized.

37. The 12th International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Bangkok with participation of over 5000 yoga enthusiasts from different walks of life including Government officials, Ambassadors, Media, Students and Academia and Indian diaspora on 21 June 2026. The event was organized at the Chulalongkorn University grounds.

38. Thailand has been directly connected with more than 15 Indian cities with over 500 weekly flights with seasonal variation. All major airlines operate between the two countries. Before Covid, around 1.9 million Indian tourists visited Thailand in 2019. As per Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, during 2025, around 2.48 million Indian tourists visited Thailand (year on year increase of around 17%), which is around 6% of the total tourist inflow into Thailand and Indians were the third largest group of tourists visiting Thailand during this period. As per Ministry of Tourism of India, around 0.13 million Thai tourist visited India in 2025 (year on year decrease of 7%).

Cooperation in the field of Education

39. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Education was signed in 2005. India offers around 120 scholarships annually under various schemes to Thailand.

Currently, there are 6 India Studies Centers and 17 India Corners in various Thai Universities/institutions.

40. Recipients of Padma Awards: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn received the Padma Bhushan in 2017 and HH Somdet Phra Ariyawongsakhatayan, the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, who is an alumnus of BHU, received the Padma Shri in 2018. In March 2022, Dr. Chirapat Prapandvidya received the Padma Shri under the category of 'Literature and Education'.

Indian Diaspora in Thailand

41. The total number of people of Indian origin in Thailand is estimated to be around 4 to 5 lakh, including more than 25,000 NRIs, majority of whom are concentrated in Bangkok. The community comprises mainly of Punjabi Hindus, Namdhari and other Sikh sects, Gorakhpuris, Malayalis, Tamils, Gujaratis, Marwaris, and Sindhis. Other linguistic and regional groups are also well represented.

Embassy & Consulate

42. Besides the Embassy in Bangkok, India has a Consulate in Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Thailand has 3 Consulates in India in the cities of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, besides its Embassy in New Delhi.

16 July 2026