

Contents

India seeks opening up of services sector	2
India, Thailand to sign free trade agreement by mid-2012	3
India-Thailand trade target fixed at \$14 billion	4

India seeks opening up of services sector

Nayanima Basu, Business Standard

New Delhi October 4, 2011: The first round of formal negotiations for having a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Thailand is going to be held in Bangkok in the end of November or early December. Both sides would be meeting for the first time for a full-fledged round, since there has been a change of government in Thailand. India is seeking greater movement of persons with Thailand in the deal.

Both sides held an informal round of talks on the intention to have the CECA on the sidelines during the Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Economic Ministers meeting in Manado, Indonesia, in August.

Under the agreement with Thailand, which is also part of the 10-member Asean bloc, India has been demanding opening up of the services sector for greater movement of its professionals in Thailand such as doctors, nurses, architects and chefs, officials in the department of commerce told Business Standard.

India has a free trade agreement (FTA) with Asean in merchandise goods, while a deal on services trade has got delayed due to several roadblocks. The deal would also lead to slashing of tariffs on as many as 94 items traded between India and Thailand. India already has an early harvest scheme with Thailand since 2004 that led to speedy elimination of tariff on 82 items of export interest to the sides. Tariffs on all these 82 items became zero for both sides in 2006.

Some of the topmost items traded between both the countries are fruits, wheat, fish, ores, chemicals, inorganic acids, alloys, rubber, plastics and gear boxes.

Both sides are also looking towards having a trilateral trade corridor that would link both the countries through Myanmar.

The India-Thailand Trade Negotiating Committee has been constituted to negotiate a comprehensive FTA covering trade in goods, trade in services, investment, rules of origin and dispute settlement mechanism. Talks to have the CECA started in November 2001 when the then Prime Minister of Thailand Thaksin Shinawatra met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed to set up a joint working group to undertake a feasibility study of a free trade pact.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

India, Thailand to sign free trade agreement by mid-2012

Reuters

25 Jan, 2012, New Delhi: India and Thailand will sign a free trade agreement by the middle of this year, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said on Wednesday. "I hope this free trade agreement with India will be in place by the middle of this year," Shinawatra said in a speech at a business conference in India's capital New Delhi. She also said the proposed agreement will be one of the main points of the discussion when she meets Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh later on Wednesday. In the backdrop of the stuttering Doha world trade talks, India has pushed a slew of trade agreements with the likes of Japan and Malaysia. It also hopes to sign a similar deal with the European Union, its biggest trade partner.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

India-Thailand trade target fixed at \$14 billion

Hindu

26 January: Thailand Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Wednesday said that India and Thailand would work to double the bilateral trade to around \$14 billion by 2014.

Both countries also decided to forge maritime partnership to develop seaport at Dawei, a strategic location on the South-Western coast of Myanmarand, and work for developing port infrastructure in Chennai.

Addressing leaders of Indian industry at a luncheon meeting hosted by Confederation of India Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) here, Ms. Shinawatra said: “My government has decided to invest in transport and connect with our neighbours. We could set up a maritime linkage with Chennai and Dawei seaport in Myanmar along with road connectivity.”

Dawei is a strategic location for India to get access to Southeast Asian markets. China is investing heavily in the countries neighbouring India. Ms. Shinawatra said India-Thailand trade had seen a quantum jump from \$1 billion to \$7 billion in the last ten years, helped by ‘Early Harvest’ pact, limited to 82 items.

The two countries want to upgrade it to a full-fledged Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) covering not only goods but also services and investment.

She said there was potential to collaborate in areas such as IT, manufacturing, tourism and medical services. “We hope to work together to set up a high-level forum with businessmen,” she said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma invited Thai companies and institutions to become partner in developing manufacturing infrastructure in India.

Mr. Sharma also said that Thai companies could look at investing in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project.

[\[Back to top\]](#)