**Embassy of India**

**Bangkok**

**Fact Sheet – Thailand**

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| **Official Name** | Kingdom of Thailand |
| **Capital** | Bangkok (population 10 million) |
| **Area** | 513,115 sq km (about 1/6th of area of India)  |
| **Provinces**  | 77 provinces including one Specially Governed District (Bangkok) |
| **Major cities**  | Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Khon Kaen, Nakhonn Ratchasima, Ubon Ratchathanee, Hat Yai and Udon Thani |
| **Population** | 68.86 million (2016) population growth rate – 0.9% per annum  |
| **Religion** | Buddhist 94%, Muslims 3.8%, Christians 0.5%, others 1.7%. |
| **Ethnic Groups**  | Thais, Chinese, Malays, the Burmese, Lao, Khmers  |
| **Currency** | Baht (1 US$ - 32.55 Baht – December 2017) |
| **National Day** | 5 December (Birthday of former King Bhumibol Adulyadej)  |
| **Languages** | Thai, Chinese, English |
| **Climate**  | Tropical: temperatures vary between 19 C to 38 C |
| **Government** | Constitutional Monarchy with Parliamentary Democracy The revolution of 1932 brought an end to absolute monarchy and replaced it with a Constitutional Monarchy. The democratic system has been weak and the country was ruled by a succession of military leaders installed after coups, the most recent in 2014. Thailand has so far had twenty Constitutions; however the basic structure of government has remained the same. |
| **Head of State**  | HM Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, the 10th King (Rama X) of the 234 year old Chakri Dynasty ascended to the Throne on December 1, 2016.  |
| **Head of Government** | **General Prayut Chan-o-cha** is the Prime Minister since May 2014. He is also Head of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).  |
| **Parliament** **(National Assembly)** | The current 200 members of the National Legislative Assembly were appointed in July 2014 by NCPO, which took power after military takeover on 22 May 2014. There are 105 members that hold military ranks, 11 from the police, and 84 civilian members that include academics, business executives, technocrats and former senators. The government and the NCPO are expected to complete the reform process and pass a number of laws for a better political foundation in Thailand before elections take place in mid to end 2017.  |
| **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** | Mr. Don Pramudwinai is Minister of Foreign Affairs w.e.f. 24 August 2015.  |
| **Economy** | Thailand is an emerging economy which is heavily export-dependent, with exports accounting for more than two thirds of GDP. The industrial (39%) and the service sectors serve as the two main sectors in the Thai GDP. Agricultural sector shares only 8.6 % of the GDP – lower than trading sector (13.5%) and the logistics & communication sector (9.6%). The construction & mining sector 4.3% to the country’s GDP. Other service sectors - which include the financial, the educational, the hotel sectors etc. - account for 25 % GDP. |
| **Major Exports** | automobile parts and accessories, precious stones and jewelry, rice, rubber, electronic ICs; refined fuels, iron and steel products, chemical products, polymers of ethylene, propylene, machinery etc. |
| **Major Imports**  | crude oil, machinery & parts, chemicals, electrical machinery, iron and steel products, jewelry including silver bars & gold, computers and parts, other metal ores, natural gas, fertilizer & pesticides etc. |
| **Major crops** | Rice, Rubber, Sugarcane, Cassava, Pineapple, Maize |
| **Major Trading Partners** | Japan, China, USA, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, , S. Korea, UAE |
| **GDP Nominal**  | US$ 406.84 billion (2016)  |
| **GDP per capita**  | US$ 5,901 (2016) |
| **Total Thai Exports** | US$ 215.33 billion (2016) |
| **Total Thai Imports** | US$ 194.67 billion (2016) |
| **Indian Exports** | US$ 2.57 billion (2016) |
| **Indian Imports** | US$ 5.15 billion (2016) |
| **Time Zone** | GMT + 7 hours (IST + 1hr 30 Minutes) |
| **Calling code** | +66 |
| **Indian community and organizations**  | There are an estimated 250,000 people of Indian origin in Thailand, many of them having lived in the country for several generations. The community comprises of Punjabis, Namdhari and other Sikh sects, Gorakhpuris, Tamils and Sindhis. India-Thai Chamber of Commerce; India-Thai Business Association; IIT Alumni Association; Indian Women’s Club; Guru Singh Sabha; Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge; Sindhi Association; Tamil Muslim Association; South Indian Association are the prominent associations. |
| **Air-links** | Air connectivity is growing with 233 flights per week by Air India, Jet Air, Indigo, SpiceJet, Thai, Cathay Pacific, Air Asia, Druk Air etc reflecting rapidly growing passenger traffic between the two countries. 17 cities of India are connected with Bangkok directly. |

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**December 2017**