

# Territorial NEWSLETTER ASEAN + 5

**EPCINDIA**  
ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations + China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand

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## Chairman's Pen



**T S Bhasin**

In this issue of the newsletter on ASEAN+5, we highlight outcomes from the 9th edition of India-ASEAN Delhi Dialogue held during July 4-5, 2017 which focused on promoting politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagements. Its importance can be understood from the theme of the Delhi Dialogue, which was 'ASEAN-India relations: Charting the course for the next 25 years'. Deepening of trade and investment relations could help bilateral trade reach USD200 billion by 2022, as per an estimate. For this, putting the mutually beneficial business visa regime can be a much needed step to accelerate the process. Currently, trade between India and ASEAN countries is observed to be on a higher growth trajectory as it increased by USD 5 billion from USD 65 billion in 2015-16 to USD 70 billion in 2016-17.

We are hopeful that the information provided in the newsletter will be useful for our readers.

## Message from Chairman, Committee on Trade with ASEAN countries



**P K Shah**

The inauguration of the Ninth Edition of India-ASEAN Delhi Dialogue highlighted the efforts of India to deepen its ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), while maintaining that New Delhi's engagement in South-East Asia is reflected by their 'Look East Policy' becoming 'Act East Policy'. The event also coincided with the 25th year of India's ties with ASEAN nations, a regional grouping comprising 10 south-east Asian countries, which promotes inter-governmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, military, educational and cultural integration among its members and other Asian nations. The event stressed on the future focus areas of cooperation between India and ASEAN countries, describing them in terms of three Cs - Commerce, Connectivity and Culture.

In this issue of newsletter, we also highlight the India's engineering exports scenario to the ASEAN+5 countries in the first three months of the new fiscal 2017-18.

I hope this newsletter will be insightful for our readers and they will enjoy reading it.

### Delhi Dialogue 9: India’s invigorating ties with ASEAN charting the course for the next 25 years

The India-ASEAN Delhi Dialogue is an annual international conference of political and economic leaders, officials, academics and opinion-makers of ASEAN countries with their Indian counterparts to discuss how to intensify and broaden political, strategic, economic and civil society interaction between the two regions.

The Delhi Dialogue held every year since 2009 had its Ninth Edition in New Delhi on July 4-5, 2017. It is a premier annual Track-1.5 event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between the ASEAN and India. The theme for Delhi Dialogue 9 was "ASEAN-India Relations: Charting the Course for the Next 25 Years".

India first launched its Look East Policy in the early 1990s. Further, the Narendra Modi Government has demonstrated dynamically rechristening this as Act East Policy, which literally means that India doesn’t just look to the East symbolically but executes specific projects in all domains of engagements — cultural, economic and strategic.

It was discussed in the conference that ASEAN and India are natural partners and Indian government considers ASEAN at the heart of its Act East Policy and centre of our dream of an Asian century. It was emphasized that India’s future focus areas of cooperation with the ASEAN member states in terms of 3Cs — commerce, connectivity and culture.

As the theme goes, the event coincides with the 25th year of India’s ties with the Association of South-East Asian Nations, a regional grouping comprising 10 south-east Asian countries, which promotes inter-governmental cooperation and facilitating economic and political integration among its nations.

India has been scaling “new heights” in its ties with ASEAN countries setting for a “defining partnership” with the south-east Asian multi-nation group. India’s trade with the ASEAN countries increased by USD 5 billion to USD 70 billion in 2016-17 from USD 65 billion in 2015-16. The country was “expeditiously” implementing connectivity projects in the region, especially the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, as mentioned in the conference. After almost two years of slow growth, ASEAN-India trade is now back on track. India’s exports to these countries increased to USD 30 billion in 2016-17 from USD 25 billion in 2015-16 as reports suggested.

As part of the Silver Jubilee commemorative activities of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership, the country will be organising a CEOs’ forum and an ASEAN-India business summit, in addition to other trade promotion events, as discussed in the conference. A regional ‘Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas’ with the Indian diaspora in the ASEAN countries would be organised later this year.

## Basic Facts of ASEAN+5

ASEAN + five countries include the ten member countries of ASEAN namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, later expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam and also five additional countries including Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea. Codification of the relations between these nations has seen progress through the development of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership a proposed free-trade agreement involving the 16 countries of ASEAN plus six including India.

**Area:** 22.5 million Sq. km

**Population:** 2.23 billion (2016)

**GDP:** USD 39511.8 billion (2016)

**Currency:** Australian Dollar (\$), Brunei Dollar (\$), Cambodian Riel, Chinese Yuan, Indian Rupee (INR), Indonesian Rupiah, Japanese yen, Lao kip, Malaysian Ringgit, Singapore Dollar (\$), Thai Baht, South Korean won, Philippine peso, etc ( For more details visit: <http://asean.org/asean/asean-member-states/>)

**Climate:** Varies according to different countries

**Natural Resources:** All the 15 countries collectively possess resources like steam coal, refined tin, nickel ore, gold, bauxite, lead, zinc and copper, petroleum, mineral oil and gas, agricultural products, bauxite, iron ore, tungsten, cobalt and limestone.



## Trade Analysis & Statistics

### Trade Analysis & Statistics

India's total engineering exports to ASEAN+5 country wise during April-June of 2017-18 stood at US\$ 1.89 billion. Some major highlights of engineering exports from India to ASEAN+5 for the month of June 2017 and cumulative exports during April-June 2017 are given below:

- ❖ In the month of June 2017, India's engineering exports to ASEAN+5 stood at US \$ 721.1 million which is 12.62% of the total global engineering exports of India during the same period.
- ❖ India's engineering exports to ASEAN+5 dropped on a cumulative basis but maintained positive growth for the month of June 2017 over June 2016.
- ❖ China topped the list for Indian engineering exports for both monthly as well as cumulative exports. During April-June 2017, major engineering products exported to the country include Copper and products, Iron and Steel, IC Engines and parts, Zinc and products and Industrial machinery & parts etc.
- ❖ China recorded huge positive growth in imports from India in June 2017 compared to June 2016 among the fifteen countries.

Top 5 nations which had the highest demand for Indian engineering products during April-June of 2017-18 in absolute values include:

Values in US\$ million

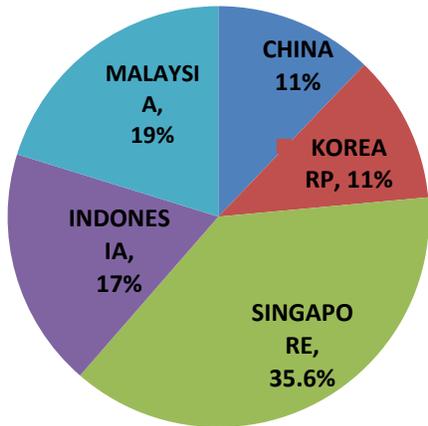
COUNTRY	APRIL-JUNE 2016	APRIL-JUNE 2017	Growth (%)
CHINA P RP	281.9	629.0	123.2
KOREA RP	262.9	482.4	83.5
SINGAPORE	876.7	422.7	-51.8
INDONESIA	425.9	353.0	-17.1
MALAYSIA	467.9	305.6	-34.7

Source: DGCI&S, Government of India

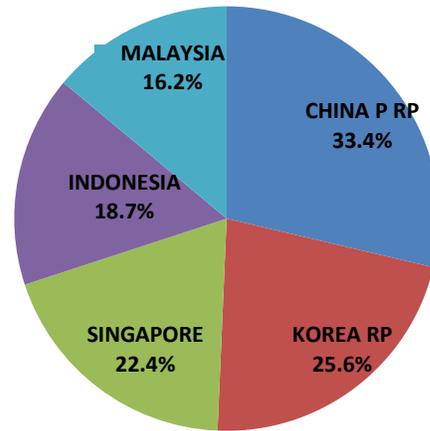
A comparison of top 5 nations which had the highest demand for Indian engineering products during April-June 2016 and its subsequent change in April-June 2017 is shown in the pie chart below:

**Fig 1: Change in Engineering Export among the top 5 ASEAN+5 countries (April-June 2017 viz-a-viz April- June 2016)**

April-June 2016



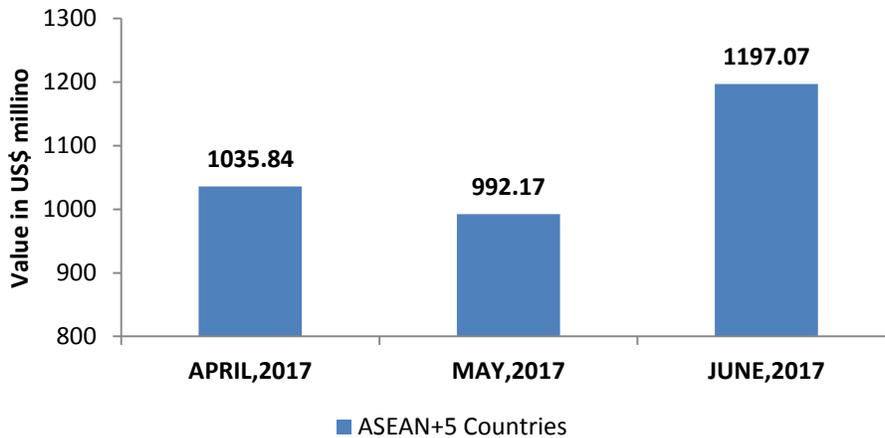
April-June 2017



Source: DGCI&S, Government of India

Fig 2: Trend in Total Engineering Export in ASEAN +5 during April-June 2017 (Month wise)

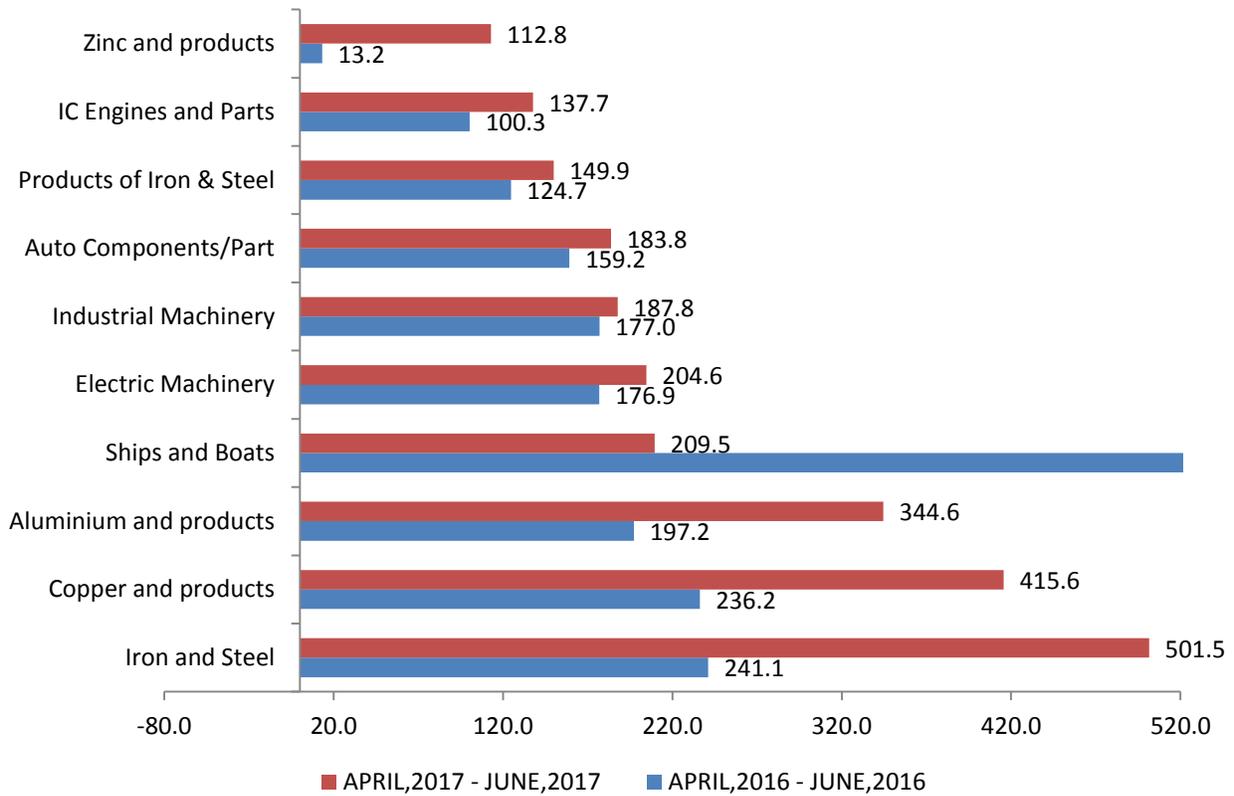
India's Exports to ASEAN+5 Countries during April-June 2017 (Monthwise)



Source: DGCI&S, Government of India

Top 10 engineering panels exported to ASEAN+5 during April-June 2017 viz-a-viz April-June 2016 are provided in bar diagram along with their respective values.

**Fig 2: Top 10 engineering panels exported to ASEAN+5 in April-June 2017 viz-a-viz April-June 2016**



Source: DGCI&S, Government of India

## News in Focus

### ❖ India, Myanmar discuss ways to boost trade, investments in sixth Joint Trade Committee meet

India Tuesday sought the cooperation of Myanmar in enhancing road, sea and air connectivity between the countries to increase bilateral trade.

Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the bilateral trade between the countries has a much larger untapped potential.

"She sought the cooperation of the Myanmar side in actively pursuing enhanced road, sea and air connectivity between the two," an official statement quoted the minister as saying.

Read more: <http://www.firstpost.com/world/india-myanmar-discuss-ways-to-boost-trade-investments-in-sixth-joint-trade-committee-meet-3751659.html>

### ❖ Myanmar and India's bilateral trade has a larger untapped potential, Sitharaman

The 6th India – Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting co-chaired by the Commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Dr. Than Myint, Union Commerce Minister from Myanmar was held on June 27, 2017 at New Delhi.

Myanmar is India's gateway to South East Asia and ASEAN with which India is seeking greater economic integration through the 'Act East' Policy. The country shares a long land border of over 1600 kms with India as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal.

India's trade with Myanmar grew by 6.01% from \$2.05 bn in 2015 -16 to \$2.18 bn in 2016-17. The total export achieved in 2016-17 was \$1.11 bn, reflecting an annual growth of 3.79% while the imports from that country was at \$1.06 bn reflecting a growth of 8.43%.

Read more: <https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/myanmar-and-indias-bilateral-trade-has-a-larger-untapped-potential-sitharaman/50621>

### ❖ India to host China, Oz for 16-nation mega trade talks

About 700 officials from 16 countries including India, China and Australia would gather in Hyderabad next month to negotiate the proposed mega trade deal - RCEP. This would be the 19th round of negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. The last meeting was held in the Philippines in May. The five-day negotiations will start from July 24 and it will be inaugurated by Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, an official said. RCEP aims at liberalising norms for trade in goods and services and boost investment among 16-member countries.

Read more: <http://www.millenniumpost.in/business/india-to-host-china-oz-for-16-nation-mega-trade-talks-249655>

### ❖ Deputy PM Minh's India visit to deepen bilateral partnership

In an interview with a Vietnam News Agency correspondent in New Delhi, Thanh said that the Deputy PM Minh will visit India and attend the ninth Delhi Dialogue from July 3-5, which is among activities to mark Vietnam-India Friendship Year 2017.

During his stay, Minh will hold talks with Indian Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj to discuss measures to promote and expand bilateral cooperation in various fields, including politics, security-defence, economy-trade, investment, tourism, science-technology, culture and education, he noted.

The two sides will also discuss regional and international issues of shared concern.

Read more: <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/government/181216/deputy-pm-minh-s-india-visit-to-deepen-bilateral-partnership.html>

### ❖ Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal stresses the importance of India's Act East policy

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal stressed the importance of India's 'Act East' policy and called for support from ASEAN to realize the growth potential of the state through close economic ties with the Southeast Asian nations.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the inaugural Ministerial Session of Delhi Dialogue IX of India-ASEAN dialogue relations, which is being organized by the Government of India in New Delhi aiming at strengthening the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.

Read more: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/assam-cm-sarbananda-sonowal-stresses-the-importance-of-indias-act-east-policy/articleshow/59444168.cms>

#### ❖ Deputy PM, FM Pham Binh Minh visits India

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh and Indian Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj have reiterated wishes and determination of their senior leaders to continue expanding the bilateral relationship to match the agreed comprehensive strategic partnership.

At their talks in New Delhi on July 4 as part of Minh's visit from July 3-5, the two sides shared their delight at the growing ties since Vietnam and India set up diplomatic ties in 1972, with sound political relations and regular exchanges of delegations through all channels.

Read more: <http://en.vietnamplus.vn/deputy-pm-fm-pham-binh-minh-visits-india/114331.vnp>

#### ❖ India-ASEAN RCEP pact likely to be concluded by year-end: Official

Negotiations between India and ASEAN towards signing a regional comprehensive economic partnership agreement are likely to conclude by the year-end, a top official said today. Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Preeti Saran said the negotiators will meet shortly in Hyderabad and thrash out issues relating to telecom, health, transport and communications in a bid to tap the potential that exists in these sectors. The RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the 10-member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. It also includes six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs comprising Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

Read more: <http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-asean-rcep-pact-likely-to-be-concluded-by-year-end-official/750406/>

#### ❖ Deputy PM Phạm Bình Minh meets Indian President during visit

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Phạm Bình Minh affirmed to Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday that Việt Nam wants to step up the comprehensive strategic partnership with India.

Minh, who is on an official visit to India, said the two countries should increase multilateral co-operation, consultation and co-ordination in addressing international issues of mutual concern to better respond to changes in international and regional situations.

Read more: <http://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/379602/deputy-pm-pham-binh-minh-meets-indian-president-during-visit.html#ISqBi9yJ6MYgm4V2.97>

#### ❖ **India-Vietnam discuss China's aggressive posturing in Asia**

Amid China's aggressive posturing in the Asiatic region, India and Vietnam discussed "concrete and feasible" steps to protect their interests while seeking to bolster their strategic bilateral ties.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam Pham Binh Minh, who concluded his four-day visit to India today, told PTI in an interview that the two sides also discussed the progress of implementation of the high-level agreements between them for creating a stable and facilitating framework to help their relations grow more "substantively".

The Vietnamese leader's visit comes in the midst of growing maritime aggression of China in the South China Sea as also its military stand off with India in the Sikkim sector.

Read more: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/indiavietnam-discuss-chinas-aggressive-posturing-in-asia/1092742>

#### ❖ **Singapore best example of India-ASEAN win-win cooperation: Jaishankar**

Recounting the leverage provided by Singapore in the integration of India with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in terms of trade, investment, and connectivity, Indian Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar has said Singapore stood out as the best testimony to the extent of engagement India enjoyed with member states of the regional group.

"Our contemporary presence is as natural in this region as it has been in the past. And perhaps, there can be no better testimony than in Singapore – connected as it is to 15 Indian cities, hosting 6,000 Indian companies and engaging India in every conceivable sector," Jaishankar said while delivering the ST Lee Distinguished Lecture of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) on 'India, ASEAN and Changing Geopolitics'.

Read more: <http://www.connectedtoindia.com/singapore-best-example-of-india-asean-win-win-cooperation-jaishankar-2118.html>

#### ❖ **'India's concerns slowing RCEP talks'**

India's reservations regarding the potential adverse impact of eliminating duties on its local manufacturing and job creation is understood to be slowing down the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.

The RCEP is a proposed mega Free Trade Agreement (FTA) involving 16 Asia Pacific nations including India and China, and aims, among other things, to liberalise investment norms in the region, besides boosting trade by dismantling most tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Read more: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/indias-concerns-slowing-rcep-talks/article19359808.ece>

❖ **Others will go ahead with RCEP without India: Shivshankar Menon**

Former Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser (NSA) Shivshankar Menon warned that if India continues to maintain its present stance of not giving greater market access to China then the other member countries might conclude the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact without it.

"I think the others will go ahead will RCEP. You are so frightened of opening your market to the Chinese that you are actually dragging your feet. It is very easy to walk out of the room, it is very difficult to walk back in," Menon told members of the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents (IAFAC) here on Friday.

The next round of RCEP talks is expected to be held on July 24 in Hyderabad while the technical-level negotiations were held on July 18.

Read more: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/others-will-go-ahead-with-rcep-without-india-shivshankar-menon/article9783322.ece>

**Business opportunities**

Location	Title	Deadline
Indonesia	Work Procurement Electrical Generator Set Geospatial Information Agency (big) Year 2017	25-Aug-2017
Philippines	Procurement Of General Purpose/ Utility Vehicle	29-Aug-2017
Philippines	Industrial Machinery And Equipment	31-Aug-2017
China	Vertical Boring And Milling Machining Center 2 Sets	29-Aug-2017

China	Automatic Winder Purchasing Project	29-Aug-2017
Thailand	Construction Of The Foundations Of 115 Kv 115 Kv Extension Equipment At Samutsaksafe 4. Samut Songkhram And The Construction Of The Foundation Of Electrical Equipment Extension 115 Kv, Etc.	07-Sep-2017
Vietnam	Supply Of Model Ht42-02: Lighting System Component 2.3 (42ha) - Technical Infrastructure Component 2,3,4 (53ha) - Division 1 (phase 1)	08-Sep-2017
Japan	Purchase Etc. Subject And Quantity In-vehicle Type Complete Set Of Exhaust Gas Measurement System Purchase	04-Sep-2017
Singapore	Replacement Of Hydraulic Pump	28-Aug-2017
Thailand	Construction, Department Of The Transmission System	07-Sep-2017

For more contract notices, Please register with Tender info and follow the link: <http://www.tendersinfo.com/> and search for respective countries.

**EEPC India ASEAN Territorial Newsletter**

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