Indo-Thai relations

What is the issue?

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India-Thai relations to be get stronger on people-to-people contact.

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What is the importance of Indo-Thai relations?

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- India and Thailand have historical and cultural roots that reach beyond our 70 years of diplomatic relations.
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- Both countries have been shaped and remain linked by the great forces of history and culture that span thousands of years.
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- There are lot of literary and other artistic sources to prove the ties.
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What are the area specific significance of the bilateral ties?

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- **Economy -** Both countries are undergoing comprehensive reforms.
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- Make in India is pursuing sustainable and inclusive economic growth for its peoples.
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- Thailand 4.0, targeting Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
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- These reformative actions can be utilized by both the nation for strengthening their ties.
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- **Political -** Prime Minister of Thailand visited India in 2016.

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- There is a common challenge in the fight against terrorism, narcotics and transnational organised crime.
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- Military and security relations are constructive and mutually beneficial, covering the land, sea and air dimensions.
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- India has a valuable role to play, together with other regional powers, in ASEAN and the greater Indo-Pacific.
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- **Trade -** Thailand, being well established on global value chains, holds great opportunities for India, especially in manufacturing and services.
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- Thailand is working hard with India to link these two markets through India’s North-eastern region and Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.
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- Beyond India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, modes of connectivity, particularly maritime and air, should also be utilised to their maximum potential.
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- New initiatives such as the Eastern Economic Corridor offer opportunities in the areas of next generation automotive, aviation, smart electronics, robotics, digital economy, healthcare, biotech, biofuel and biochemical.
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- **Multilateral ties -** Political will on all sides will also ensure delivery of the RCEP and BIMSTEC FTAs to give an added economic boost to ASEAN, South Asia and beyond.
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- This year also marks the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations.
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- An invitation has also been extended to the leaders of the 10 ASEAN member states to visit India for the Republic Day celebration on January 26, 2018.
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- **Society -** Last year, India paid its respects to the late King in Bangkok, which touched the hearts and souls of the Thai people.
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- Last March, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn made her 17th visit to receive the Padma Bhushan from Indian president.
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- Booming tourism and exchanges of high-profile visits are helping to transform the modern Thai person’s perspective on new India and vice versa.
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- People to people contacts are great, with 1.2 million Indians visiting Thailand every year.
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- This healthy people-to-people contacts adds to the reserve of goodwill that Indians have for Thais.
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Source: Indian Express

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