

**Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division,
DGCI&S, Kolkata.**

India-Myanmar Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Myanmar.

2. India shares a long land border of over 1643 kms with Myanmar as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Four northeastern states, viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, have a boundary with Myanmar.

3. India shares spiritual, historical, linguistic and ethnic ties with Myanmar. It is the only ASEAN country adjoining India and, therefore, is a gateway to South East Asia. India is seeking to enhance its cooperation with Myanmar in line with our ‘Act East’ and ‘Neighborhood First’ Policies.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) - Recent facts & figures

4. As a trading country partner of India, and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCI&S, India’s exports to Myanmar during 2023-24 have been recorded at 670.37 million US Dollar and India’s imports from Myanmar during the same reference period stands at 1075.65 million US Dollar.

Export-Import statistics as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :

Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24

(US Dollar Million)

Year	Total trade	Import	Export
2019-20	1521.14	547.25	973.89
2020-21	1299.35	526.79	772.56
2021-22	1894.90	1001.87	893.03
2022-23	1761.73	954.74	806.99
2023-24	1736.02	1075.65	670.37

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

Major Indian exports to Myanmar: Tea, Coffee, Leather And Its Products, Petroleum Products, Automobiles, Packaged Medicaments, Organic and Inorganic Chemicals, Dairy Products, Handloom and Cotton Yarn etc.

Major Indian imports from Myanmar: India's major imports from Myanmar are agricultural products like beans, pulses and maize and forest products such as Teak and hardwoods etc.

5. Since the signing of the India-Myanmar trade agreement in 1970, bilateral trade has grown steadily. India is the fourth largest trading partner of Myanmar.

6. India is the fifth-largest trading partner of Myanmar. The bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1.03 billion in 2021-22. The growth is, however, not commensurate with the potential. India-Myanmar bilateral trade is conducted under ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and India's Duty- Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme.

7. In terms of investment, India stands at 11th position with an approved investment of US\$ 773.038 million by 34 Indian enterprises as on 31 January 2022. 13 Indian Public Sector Undertaking have a presence in Myanmar in different sectors, with a concentration in oil and gas.

C. Other Major Areas of Co-operation

➤ Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Myanmar for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.

➤ India and Myanmar have several institutional mechanisms to ensure regular consultations between the two governments. The Foreign Office Consultations is led by Foreign Secretary and Permanent Secretary of Myanmar. The 19th Foreign Office Consultations were held on 1st October, 2020 in virtual mode.

➤ India's development assistance portfolio in Myanmar is now over US \$1.75 billion. The bulk of this assistance is grant-funded.

➤ Former President of Myanmar, U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho paid a State Visit to India from 27-29 February 2020 during which 10 MoUs/agreements in areas like implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs); projects under Rakhine State Development Program; Prevention of Trafficking in Persons; and cooperation in areas like petroleum, communication and health research were signed.

- The projects in which India has been involved in Myanmar include the (i) Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project; (ii) the Trilateral Highway Project, which is an East-West corridor connecting our Northeast with Myanmar and Thailand; (iii) Assistance in setting up institutions for higher learning and research, namely Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education, Myanmar-India Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills, India-Myanmar Industrial Training Centres; (iv) Rakhine State Development Programme; (v) Border Area Development Programme; (vi) Restoration and conservation of Ananda Temple in Bagan (completed in 2018); (vii) the repair and conservation of 92 earthquake damaged pagodas etc.
- A Line of Credit for US \$ 500 million is available to Myanmar for undertaking various projects. Previously, multiple projects like laying of optical fibre link between More hand Mandalay; railway rehabilitation in Myanmar; renovation of Thanlyin oil refinery etc. have been completed under Indian LoC and some projects have already been approved and are under various stages of implementation.
- In September 2022, India and Myanmar signed a Project Agreement for Construction of a Modern Integrated Check post at Tamu in Myanmar.
- An MoU between India and Myanmar for cooperation in the area of pulses was signed in June 2021.
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- India and Myanmar share close cultural ties and a sense of deep kinship, given India's Buddhist heritage. Building on this shared heritage, India is undertaking some key initiatives in the restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan and the repair and conservation of a large number of damaged pagodas. India has also completed work on restoring and renovating two historic temples in Bodh Gaya built by Myanmar rulers King Mindon and King Baygyidaw.
- Cultural interactions between India and Myanmar include regular visits of cultural troupes from both the countries.
- The Embassy of India in Yangon has a full fledged Cultural Centre named Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre that conducts regular events like yoga, cultural competitions, dance classes, seminars and talks. Yoga and Hindi classes are also conducted by the Embassy.
- Cultural exchange between India and Myanmar had been adversely affected by the loss of connectivity during the pandemic. However, cultural connections were maintained during the period by leveraging communication technology by conducting online workshops for people in Myanmar in areas of interest like painting and Indian dance

forms.

➤ There are varying estimates of 1.5-2.0 million people of Indian origin living and working in various parts of Myanmar. A large number of the Indian community (nearly 150,000) live in Bago (Zeyawaddy and Kuayktaga) and Tanintharyi Region and Mon State, primarily engaged in farming.

Source :www.mea.gov.in