



**Embassy of India
Bangkok**

PRESS RELEASE

On August 1, 2007, India and Thailand celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It is noteworthy that the decision to establish diplomatic relations was taken in the same month when India achieved independence in August 1947.

In his message issued on this occasion to His Excellency Prime Minister Gen. Surayud Chulanont, the Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh stated that “relations between India and Thailand are deeply rooted in our ancient civilisational links. Over the last 60 years both sides have worked to give this ancient relationship a contemporary relevance. I am pleased that in recent years our relations have undergone considerable expansion and consolidation.” The Indian Prime Minister also stated that “India would work with Thailand to enhance India’s engagement with the ASEAN region as well as in regional fora such as BIMSTEC, Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and the East Asia Summit.” On the same occasion, India’s External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, in his message of felicitation addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Nitya Pibulsonggram, conveyed that “Our relations have moved beyond the traditional areas of cultural and commercial interaction to cooperation in security, defence, science and technology as well as greater people-to-people interaction and a movement towards free trade.” In addition, the

statement goes on to mention that Thailand's 'Look West' Policy complements India's 'Look East' approach.

On the same occasion, in his message issued on this auspicious anniversary, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Gen. Surayud Chulanont, stated that "our shared values and common aspirations have enhanced the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between our two peoples and they will provide a solid foundation for even stronger partnership in the future." Referring to his recent State Visit to India in June 2007, the Thai Prime Minister added that "the visit gave new impetus to our multi-dimensional cooperation and strategic partnership. It also reaffirmed the longstanding friendship and high regard that Thailand has for India." Similarly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Nitya Pibulsonggram, stated that "we are now witnessing close cooperation in security, defence, trade and investment, science and technology, cultural interactions and people diplomacy. Our interactions in regional and international fora have also been constructive and fruitful. We have become true partners."

The exchanges of these high level messages of felicitations only underline the warmth and friendship that have characterised India-Thailand relations over the last six decades and, in fact, in the centuries prior to the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. This is indeed an anniversary which deserves to be enthusiastically celebrated and both countries have planned a series of events to do so.

The events being organised in Thailand include a conference on Thailand and India's relations on the theme "Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" being organized on August 1, 2007 at Thammasat University. His Excellency Mr. Sawanit Kongsiri, the Acting Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, has most graciously agreed to host a joint reception by the two Governments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok on August 3, 2007. In addition, it is proposed to have a classical Indian music concert organised jointly by the Embassy of India in Thailand and the Indian Women's Club of Thailand on 25th August in

Bangkok and an Indian Contemporary Art Exhibition in Bangkok on 14th September 2007. On 15th August 2007, the India-Thai Chamber of Commerce will host a reception to commemorate the 60th anniversary of India's Independence and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of India-Thailand diplomatic relations.

In India as well, there are several important events being held to mark these commemorations. One of the highlights of the anniversary celebrations in India will be an exhibition of photographs of India taken over the last 25 years by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and a performance of the Khon Classical Thai dance by a Thai ballet group performing scenes from the Ramakien. Both these historic events, graciously presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, will be held in Delhi on August 9, 2007.
