

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 31 AUGUST 2021

1. Thailand opens doors for travel by Indian business execs

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Indian business people are allowed to travel to Thailand, but Indian tourists will have to wait for further easing of measures. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in India revealed that the tourism sector could get more than THB100 billion in revenue if the pandemic measures were eased by the end of 2021, as there was a high demand among Indian tourists to travel to the kingdom. The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has given its approval for Indian business persons who carry a work permit, reside and have family in Thailand to enter the country with 14-day mandatory quarantine since August 25, after travel had been suspended for four months. Indian tourists will have to wait for further announcements from the CCSA.

2. Green light for online action plan

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The cabinet on 30 August gave the go-ahead to the national e-commerce development action plan phase I, which spans 2021-2022 and aims to boost e-commerce revenue to more than 5.35 trillion baht next year. Rachada Dhnadirek, a deputy government spokeswoman, said the Commerce Ministry's action plan will play a vital role in driving Thailand's digital economy and trade. Under the first phase of the action plan (2021-2022), the government aims to raise e-commerce revenue to 5.35 trillion baht next year, up from 4.03 trillion baht in 2019; increase the e-commerce revenues of small and medium-sized enterprises by at least 5% a year and outbound cross-border e-commerce revenue by at least 5% a year during 2021 and 2022.

3. Thailand making vaccine deals with partner countries to combat Covid-19, says

Foreign Ministry

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The Foreign Ministry has been using diplomatic channels to procure Covid-19 vaccines and other aid from partner countries, ministry spokesperson Thani Saengrat said on 30 August. He said the ministry has been strengthening ties with the US, China, Japan, India, the European Union, the United Kingdom and Russia, who in turn have been providing Covid-19 vaccines and other necessities to help us combat the pandemic," he said. Thani added that China has donated more than 7.5 million doses of the Sinovac vaccine to Thailand and has helped facilitate the purchase and timely delivery of more Sinovac and Sinopharm doses. Japan gave

1.05 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine in early July, while the US donated 1.5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine on July 30. The US has promised another 1 million Pfizer doses plus a \$5 million (161.7 million baht) cash donation to Thailand's Covid-19 fund.

4. MPI up for fifth consecutive month on export growth

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Thailand's manufacturing production index (MPI) in July increased by 5.12% year-on-year for the fifth consecutive month to 91.41 points, thanks to export growth. Despite Covid-19 outbreaks in many countries, international trade in July was still bustling due to global economic recovery driven by the US, China and Europe, according to the Office of Industrial Economics (OIE). Thai export value in July stood at 700 billion baht, which was good for the domestic economy, said Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit. He played down worries over Covid-19 infections in factories. "The government is working closely with factory owners to control the infections through various measures including bubble and seal and factory sandbox," said Mr Suriya.

5. Dusit Thani banking on revenue from overseas

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

SET-listed Dusit Thani Plc is focusing on revenue driven by overseas hotel operations which outperformed hotels in Thailand. However, hotel revenue should recover from the Covid crisis by 2023-24 as travel activities are expected to be limited, said Sukit Ngansangnapong, Dusit's chief financial officer. For the first half, the average occupancy for Dusit-owned hotels was 32%, while the occupancy rate of overseas hotels soared to 70-80%, particularly those in the Maldives and the Philippines. As of June 30, Dusit has 45 properties totalling 10,500 rooms, excluding Elite Havens. Of these, 23% are owned hotels and 77% are hotels under management agreements.

6. E-commerce expected to record double-digit growth

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Despite the sluggish economy that could lead to cautious spending in the second half, Thailand's e-commerce industry is still expected to see double-digit growth this year, driven by the new normal shopping trend, says e-commerce platform Lazada. "In the past three months, we have seen cautious spending from customers of LazMall [a virtual mall feature of Lazada] though this customer group is usually less affected by the pandemic," said Thanida Suiwatana, chief business officer of Lazada Thailand. Shoppers on LazMall spent more time

selecting products and browsing more lower priced products, compared with the first half, she said.