

INDO-CHINA BORDER TRADE THROUGH NATHULA PASS

The re-opening of border trade through is a significant achievement for the Government of Sikkim and Union Government from various points of views.

The re-opening of the Border Trade certainly helps in promoting friendly relationship between these two emerging economic powers of Asia. This has provided a platform to introduce the state of Sikkim of the people of the World through the electronic media and print media since the re-opening of the Nathula border trade. Nathula is historically a very important border from time immemorial in respect of trade with TAR-China. Apart from it, Tsomgo, Sherathang, Nathula, Kupup and Gnathang have been attracting tourist continuously every year because of the natural scenic beauty of this areas. Therefore, more than 300 vehicles ply in these areas during peak seasons as per the records of the police check post. This area as well as Gangtok can become a tourists hub if proper road connectivity, amenities and communication facilities are provided and tourism is opened from this route to Tibet Autonomous Region-China, to people to people contact.

Though border trades have been started more than one decade back at Sipkila in Himachal Pradesh and Gunji in Uttaranchal with the same list of items as of Nathula Border Trade, yet these areas do not appear to have attracted Traders, the people and media persons as that of Nathula. Therefore, issues have not been raised for revision of the list of items of Export and Import on the trade of these borders so far. Apparently, temporary infrastructures are developed for Nathula Border trade on similar lines of Sipkila and Gunji with the same list of items but it has been attracting all types of businessman, tourist, people, media persons and getting immense publicity throughout the country beyond imagination after the re-opening of the border trade. The decision of the authorities is to open up the border, for economic prosperity and people to people contact, on both sides of the border. This is indeed unique as history is created.

IEC Number (Imported – Exporter Code Number)

IEC is not required for the Border Trade because persons Importing or Exporting TAR China are authorized to Trade Indian Currency value of Rs.25000/- per day per trader (2006-2007) only. Since the term Border Trade is to be construed that the Trade is opened for the people of the Border area only for the items produced in local area of limited value. Government of India increased the Indian currency value limit from Rs.25000/- to Rs. 1,00,000 per day per trader (2007-2008).

Border Trade

1. Border trade through Nathula pass formally resumed on 6th July 2006.
2. Border trade markets will remain open from Monday to Thursday every week-four days in a week from morning 7:30 am to afternoon 3:30 pm Indian time and 10 am to 6 pm Chinese time would be the timings for the border trade.
3. A permit fee of Rs. 50 each will be levied for every vehicle entering Sikkim side from China. Similarly, a fee of 5 Yauns (Rs.5 equal to one Yaun) will be levied for every vehicle crossing over to the Chinese side upto the trade mart point at Renqinggang.

Trading Period

Year	From	To
2006-2007	6th July 2006	3rd September 2007
2007-2008	1st May 2007	30th November 2007
2008-2009	19 th May 2008	27 th November 2008
2009-2010	1 st May 2009	30 th Nov 2009

List of 29 Items from India exportable to China are:-

1. Agriculture Implements	2. Blankets	3. Copper products
4. Clothes	5. Cycles	6. Coffee
7. Tea	8. Barley	9. Rice
10. Flour	11. Dry Fruits	12. Dry and Fresh Vegetables
13. Vegetable oil	14. Gur and Misri	15. Tobacco
16. Snuff	17. Spices	18. Shoes
19. Kerosene oil	20. Stationary	21. Utensils
22. Wheat	23. Liquor	24. Milk Processed Product
25. Canned Food	26. Cigarettes	27. Local Herb
28. Palm oil	29. Hardware	

The list of items that are importable from China are:-

1. Goat Skin	2. Sheep Skin
3. Wool	4. Raw Silk
5. Yak tail	6. Yak hair
7. China clay	8. Borax
9. Seabelype	10. Butter
11. Goat Kashmiri	12. Common salt
13. Horse	14. Goat
15. Sheep	

Details of Trade for the last four years:-

	7th July to 29th Sept 2006	1st May to 29th Nov 2007	19th May to 27th Nov 2008	1st May to 30th Nov 2009
Export from India to TAR	8.87 lakhs	27.87 lakhs	95.00 lakhs	1.35 crore
Import from TAR to India	10.83 lakhs	6.88 lakhs	1.35 lakhs	2.96 lakhs
Visit of Indian traders to trade mart at Renqingang	696	2117	1034	-
Visit of Chinese Traders to trade mark at Sherathang.	1253	3701	3948	-