

# Piyush Goyal to attend RCEP meet in Thailand

## 'Formal pact only if demands are met'

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After skipping the last Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) meeting in August, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will attend the seventh RCEP Ministerial meeting in Thailand that starts on Sunday, the Ministry of Commerce confirmed on Friday.

India, however, would maintain a strict stance on the RCEP negotiations and consider signing an agreement only if its demands were met, a senior Commerce Ministry official told *The Hindu*. The RCEP is a proposed regional grouping of 16 countries. Mr. Goyal did not attend the previous



Piyush Goyal

meeting, ostensibly to carry out his duties in Parliament. He had, however, just ended a series of meetings with industry, which had voiced grave concerns about India joining the RCEP, and the resultant higher market access that would be given to China, in particular.