

## 2024: A Historic Milestone for Democracy

India's 2024 elections redefined the spirit of democracy with record-breaking participation, groundbreaking inclusion and unprecedented efficiency. From empowering women voters to enhancing accessibility for Divyangjan, the journey showcased unity, progress and resilience.

Read how the world's largest democracy achieved extraordinary milestones.

2024 Saw the Largest Election in The World!

How Did 2024 Election Break All the Records?

A Historic Leap for Democracy  
Number of Registered Electors Grew By **7.43%** since 2019

Year	Number of Registered Electors (Cröre)
2019 Elections	91.19
2024 Elections	97.97

Source: Election Commission Of India

## PM congratulates Humpy Koneru on winning the 2024 FIDE Women's World Rapid Championship



**Narendra Modi** ✓

@narendramodi



Congratulations to [@humpy\\_koneru](#) on winning the 2024 FIDE Women's World Rapid Championship! Her grit and brilliance continues to inspire millions.

This victory is even more historic because it is her second world rapid championship title, thereby making her the only Indian to achieve this incredible feat.





## How COP29 can benefit India



The 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has recently concluded with pivotal agreements and intense debates at Baku.

Held under the vision of intensifying climate crises and geopolitical tensions, COP29 has marked yet another milestone in global climate diplomacy. The conference focused on implementing the Paris Agreement—enhancing climate finance and addressing global disparities in climate responsibilities and capacities—with attending stakeholders ranging from governments to non-state actors.

The two standout issues were operationalising Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement—centred on carbon markets—and setting a new global climate finance target under the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). Both these discussions have underscored the disparity between developed and developing economies in tackling climate challenges.

This comprehensive analysis delves into the key outcomes of COP29, emphasising the implications for India in leveraging these outcomes for sustainable development and economic growth.

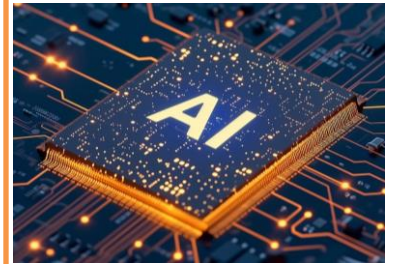
India stands at a unique juncture where it can leverage international climate finance while also advocating for a fairer and more effective global system. India is aligning its domestic policies with global goals and fostering south-south cooperation to emerge as a leader in the global fight against climate change, turning challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth.

Read the full article at: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/blogs/how-cop29-can-benefit-india>

## Indian Economy on the Transformational Paths

### India Poised for Global Deep Tech Leadership

India is rapidly emerging as a global leader in deep tech, driven by advancements in AI, green hydrogen, space tech, and biotechnology, according to the “India’s Deep Tech Revolution” report by Special Invest and Oister Global. These innovations are projected to bolster India’s \$7 trillion economy by 2030. Also, the report highlights India’s potential to capture 10% of the \$700 billion global space economy by the decade’s end.



### OECD Predicts Nearly 7% Growth for India

India’s economy is set to grow at a steady pace of nearly 7% over the next two years, as outlined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its latest economic outlook released on 4 December. This forecast reflects strong public and private investments, recovering agricultural output, and improving rural incomes buoyed by a favourable monsoon. The OECD revised its growth projection for India, estimating an average growth of 6.8% over the next three years. It also increased the FY26 growth forecast to 6.9%, from 6.8% in its earlier outlook.



### Organic Food Exports to Hit \$450M

According to data shared in Parliament, India’s organic food exports are anticipated to reach US\$447.73 million by November 2025, representing a shipment volume of 2,63,050 tonnes. These figures highlight a steady contribution of organic products to India’s export economy, even amidst global market challenges. Export trends over the past five years reveal significant fluctuations, with the highest value of US\$1,040.95 million achieved in 2020-21. However, subsequent years have declined, with US\$494.80 million recorded in 2023-24, before the current fiscal year. Despite market fluctuations, India maintains over 1,000 certified organic processing units under the NPOP, supporting global demand for sustainable and health-focused products.



### Startups Drive 1.6M Jobs in India

India’s startup ecosystem has created over 1.6 million jobs, with 1.57 lakh startups recognized by DPIIT as of December 25. Over 73,000 startups feature women directors, highlighting growing gender diversity. With 100+ unicorns and strong growth in fintech, edtech, and e-commerce, India remains the world’s third-largest startup hub.



### BPCL Announces \$11 Billion Refinery Project

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) unveiled plans to invest \$11 billion in a new refinery and petrochemical project in Andhra Pradesh. The facility will feature a refinery with a capacity of at least 9 million metric tons per year and an ethylene cracker, aiming to meet India’s rising fuel demand and strengthen its position as a global refining hub.



## **PAYMENTS IN CASH WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED FROM 1ST JANUARY 2025**

With regard to Ministry's guidelines dated 22 May 2023 for collection of Consular fee by digital payment means, It is to inform that with effect from 1st January 2025, any payment made in cash for seeking Visa/Passport/Consular services will not be accepted by Embassy of India, Zagreb. All the applicants are hereby advised to make online payment through bank transfer only to the Embassy's designated bank account.

Steps to be followed:

1. Confirm Fees: Verify the consular fee for your requested service. For an up-to-date fee schedule, please refer to the official [Consular Services Fee page] (<https://www.indianembassyzagreb.gov.in/page-link/...>) on our website, or contact our consular desk for any clarification at [consular.zagreb@mea.gov.in](mailto:consular.zagreb@mea.gov.in) in case of any doubt regarding the service.

2. Bank Transfer Details:

- Bank Name : Zagrebacka Banka d.d.
- Account Name : Embassy of India
- Account Number/IBAN : HR1123600001102227274
- SWIFT Code : ZABAHR2X

Include your **\*\*Application Reference Number and service type\*\*** (e.g., "Visa Fee" or "Pass-port Renewal") in the payment reference section to help ensure accurate processing.

Important Notes:

- Payment Accuracy: Be sure to enter all bank details and references correctly. The Embassy is not responsible for delays or issues resulting from incorrect or incomplete payment information.
- Refund: Fees once deposited is not refundable. Please ensure the deposit of correct fee only for the service required.

For further questions, please contact our consular services desk.

Tel: (00-385-1) 4873239, 4873240

E mail Visa & Consular:

[consular.zagreb@mea.gov.in](mailto:consular.zagreb@mea.gov.in) & [cons.zagreb@mea.gov.in](mailto:cons.zagreb@mea.gov.in)

We appreciate your cooperation in adopting this streamlined and secure payment system.



Embassy  
of India  
Zagreb

**PAYMENTS IN CASH WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED FROM 1ST JANUARY 2025.**

**Collection of fees through digital payment means for all  
Consular services provided by Embassy of India, Zagreb.**

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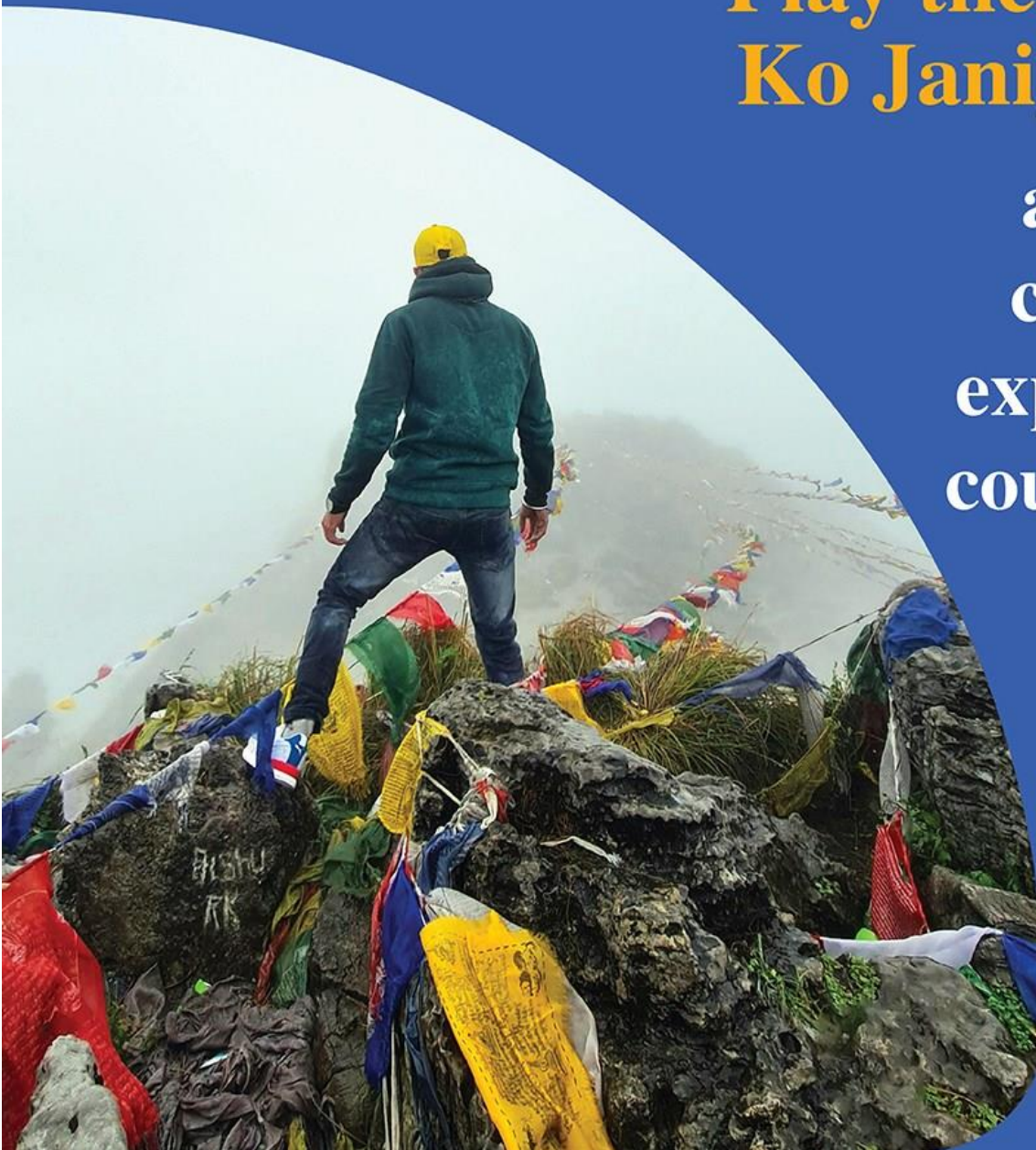
## Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz

India is an emotion! Get a chance to experience the country at its best by scoring big in the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz! Visit to participate - <https://www.bkjquiz.com>



# Play the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz

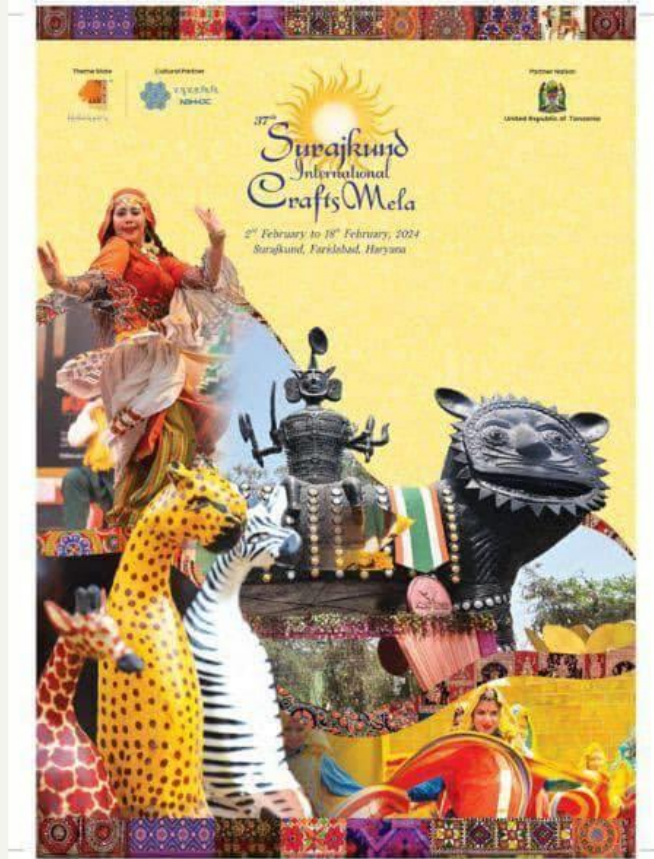
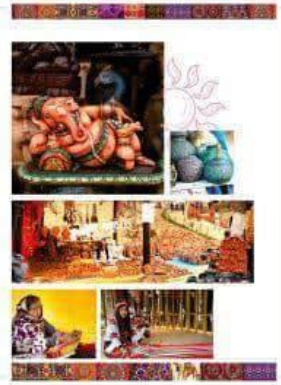
and get a  
chance to  
explore the  
country for  
**free!**



Scan to visit the website



Faridabad,  
Haryana



# 38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

7th to 23rd February 2025

For more information, please visit [www.haryanatourism.gov.in](http://www.haryanatourism.gov.in)



## Mahakumbh Mela 2025

Get ready for the spiritually enriching experience of the Mahakumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, from January 13 to February 26, 2025. A celebration of devotion, culture, and spirituality! For more details, visit: <http://kumbh.gov.in>

# The End That Awaits a New Beginning

The echoes of chants fade, the sacred waters turn still, and the grand congregation disperses. But Maha Kumbh is never truly over—it lives on in every soul it has touched waiting for the next call of the divine.





## Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, ITEC FOR Croatian government officials



The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, ITEC for short, is the leading capacity building platform of the Ministry Of External Affairs, Government of India. Instituted in 1964, ITEC is one of the oldest institutionalized arrangements for international capacity building having trained more than 200,000 officials from 160+ countries in both the civilian and in the defence sector.

Government of India bears the entire expenditure for ITEC training in India, which includes airfare, tuition fees, living allowances, medical expenses, book grants.

The ITEC programme offers fully-funded in-person (or on-campus) ITEC courses at eminent training facilities and higher educational institutes spread throughout India.

Each year, MEA offers a calendar of ITEC Courses on various training themes related to public administration, industry, agriculture, management and entrepreneurship, power/renewable, development studies (rural, urban, sustainable), banking/finance/audit/trade, English language training and law/justice/police administration. These courses are of varying duration, ranging from a few months to 1 year, and provide an engaging training opportunity to get exposed to the latest developmental solutions and flagship schemes implemented in India.

Apart from covering the course fees and accommodation expenses, the ITEC scheme also provides one set of excursion/economy class air fare, gratis visa, a living allowance, book allowances, and medical facility. As part of the training, the ITEC scheme also includes an educational-cum-sightseeing study tour as an integral part. The study tour serves to familiarize the participants with Indian culture and history.

Interested government officials can apply at <https://www.indianembassyzagreb.gov.in/page/itec-fsi/>

**Glimpses of the Ayurveda lecture and workshop in Poreč "Preparing the body for winter and strengthening immunity" held on 7-8th December 2024 organized by Amrit Sagar with the support of the Embassy of India, Zagreb**





## Vice President of the Committee for the Economy Ivica Lukanović received the Ambassador of India Arun Goel

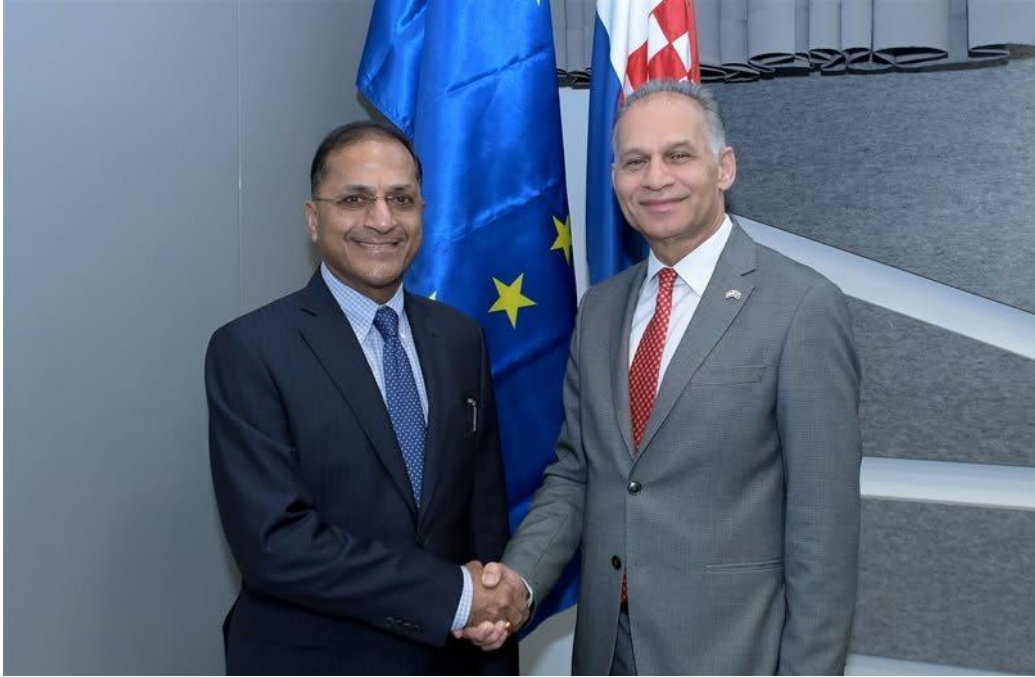


Vice President of the Committee for the Economy Ivica Lukanović, Member of Croatian Parliament, received on 11th December Ambassador Arun Goel, with whom he discussed strengthening cooperation between the two countries, primarily in the areas of economy, tourism and culture. Ambassador Goel pointed out that Croatia ranks highly in India as a tourist country, has market potential for investment and export, and is also significant in terms of labor migration to it. He said that according to the latest data, 17 thousand Indian citizens have a residence and work permit in Croatia. - There are various experiences of Indians with agencies that mediate in the import of labor, but they all want to work, not come to Croatia and be there without a job, illegally, but participate in the environment they came to - Goel emphasized and expressed concern for the safety of foreign labor, since we are witnessing frequent attacks on them, which causes them fear, so he expects strong support, including diplomacy, in the integration of foreign workers. Vice President of the Committee Lukanović and Ambassador Goel agreed that Croatia is also important for India as a tourist destination. – In the first ten months of this year, around 50 thousand arrivals and 134 thousand overnight stays of Indian tourists were recorded, which is an impressive figure, said Lukanović. – Given the great interest of Indians in Croatia in terms of tourism, the procedures for issuing tourist visas should be accelerated, Goel believes. Regarding economic cooperation, Lukanović highlighted the Rijeka transport route for the transport of goods from India. – The Rijeka transport corridor will become increasingly stronger in the coming years and it is important that India also becomes familiar with this route as an option for the efficient transport of goods, he emphasized. Speaking about the safety of foreign workers, he believes that these are isolated incidents that should be sanctioned, but above all prevented. He believes that learning the Croatian language and getting to know each other's cultures and customs would contribute to the integration of foreign workers, so he believes that action should be taken on this issue and that migration should be seen as an opportunity for economic and social development. – The environment I come from is friendly towards foreign workers, and I personally have positive experiences with Indian workers, and it would certainly be nice to experience an Indian program as part of the Kastav Cultural Summer, to bring their culture closer to the local population – said Lukanović.

The interlocutors emphasized that both Croatia and India have made a strong contribution to the conclusion of agreements between the two countries in the fields of culture, education, technology, and sports, as well as to the Memorandum of Understanding on the defense industry, but that they still need to strengthen cooperation, especially with regard to Croatia's export potential, as well as by creating a friendly environment for entrepreneurs.

### **Ambassador Arun Goel met with head of the Croatia-India Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, Veljko Kajtazi**

The head of the Croatia-India Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, Veljko Kajtazi, received on 19th December the Ambassador of India to Croatia, Arun Goel. MP Kajtazi Group presented Ambassador the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group and emphasized the importance of mutual work on further strengthening economic cooperation, as well as on joint projects between India and Croatia.



Ambassador Arun Goel met on the 17th December the Zagreb City Museum Headmaster Mrs. Aleksandra Berberih Slana. The Zagreb City Museum is a general cultural and historical important city museum that systematically collects and processes objects from the city's past.





## INDIAN MATHEMATICS DAY IN CROATIA

The 4th Indian Mathematics Day in Croatia was held on the 20th of December 2024 at the Science Faculty of the University of Zagreb. The event was jointly organised with the Mathematics Department of the Faculty of Science, Zagreb, the Embassy of India in Zagreb, the Croatian Mathematical Society, and the Croatian Indian Society. The attendees saw lectures by Academician Andrej Dujella, Prof. Dr. Sc. Zvonimir Šikić, and Prof. Dr. Sc. Mirko Primc as part of the special program. The event was also attended by Mrs. Pallavi Kararha, Second Secretary (Commercial & Consular) Embassy of India, Zagreb.





## World Meditation Day in Zagreb

The Embassy of India in collaboration with Art of Living Croatia organized a special program on the occasion of "World Meditation Day", which was held in Zagreb on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The event was also attended by Mrs. Pallavi Kararha, Second Secretary (Commercial & Consular) Embassy of India, Zagreb.







Embassy of India, Zagreb

## Invites you to the Celebration of the 76th Republic Day of India



**The Embassy will be celebrating the 76th Republic Day of the Republic of India at the Embassy of India, 152b Bijenik, Zagreb 10000, on 26th January 2025, Sunday, as per the following details:**

All Indian Nationals & Croatian friends of India are requested to confirm their attendance at the Email: [socsecy.zagreb@mea.gov.in](mailto:socsecy.zagreb@mea.gov.in); by 24th Jan.

### **Programme on 26 January 2024**

Arrival of guests	: 1100 hrs
Flag hoisting and National Anthem	: 1115hrs
Reading of Hon'ble President of India Address to the Nation by Ambassador	: 1115-1130hrs
Refreshments	: 1130 hrs
End of Programme	: 1200 noon



# Discover India: Upcoming Trade Fairs, Conferences & Business Events 2024-2025"

## Explore Opportunities Across Diverse Indian States

### **Indusfood 2025**

**Date & Venue:** India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida, 8-10 Jan. 2025

**Website:** <https://indusfood.co.in/>

Indusfood offers an exclusive platform for global businesses to connect with India's dynamic food economy, widely recognized as the food economy of the future. With over 1,800 exhibitors, 180+ international exhibitors, and 20+ country pavilions, Indusfood addresses the underutilized potential of India's processed food exports. The event spans over 80,000 square meters, attracting more than 5,000 global buyers and 100+ supermarket chains and e-retailers. Indusfood aims to bridge gaps by offering an international stage for companies to connect with global buyers, explore new markets, and expand their reach. It not only highlights India's unique food offerings but also facilitates cross-border partnerships and investment opportunities.



### **Printpack India**

**Date and Venue:** India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida, 1-5 Feb. 2025

**Website:** [www.printpackipama.com](http://www.printpackipama.com)

The 16th edition of PRINTPACK INDIA is set to be a landmark event in the printing and packaging industry, hosted by the Indian Printing Packaging & Allied Machinery Manufacturers' Association (IPAMA). As one of Asia's largest expositions in this sector, the event will bring together industry decision-makers and enthusiasts from around the globe. Attendees can expect to see a comprehensive showcase of products, including in-press, post-press, finishing, converting, digital and signage, packaging machines, packaging materials, printing and publishing solutions, paper products, logistics, and transportation industries.



### **Bharat Tex 2025**

**Date & Venue:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida, 14-17 February 2025

**Website:** [www.bharat-tex.com](http://www.bharat-tex.com)

BHARAT TEX 2025 is positioned as a global scale textile trade fair and knowledge platform. Over 5,000 Exhibitors, 6,000 international buyers from over 110 countries and over 120,000 visitors are expected to participate in the event. Building on the success of Bharat Tex's first edition, Bharat Tex-2025 aims to establish itself as a premier international industry platform. The event will feature exhibitions, knowledge sessions, thematic discussions, G2G meetings, B2B networks, MoUs, product launches, and interactive pavilions.



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*Compiled by*  
Embassy of India, Zagreb

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