45th India International Trade Fair opens at Bharat Mandapam

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News

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal opened the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2026), organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 13 November 2026. The fair runs from 14 to 27 November; its theme is 'Vikas aur Virasat' (Development and Heritage). Over 3,500 exhibitors are spread over 17 halls covering more than 1 lakh square metres, with 32 States/UTs and 51 Central ministries, departments and PSUs taking part. Partner States are Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh; Focus States are Assam, Delhi, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Hall 1 has pavilions of 11 countries, including Thailand, Iran, Ghana, Nepal, Afghanistan, the UAE, Türkiye, China, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Highlights include a 'Hall of Inspiration' with about 600 start-ups and a One District One Product (ODOP) pavilion of 21 States. 14–18 November are business days; the public is admitted from 19 to 27 November.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Edition / dates	45th; 14–27 Nov 2026 (opening 13 Nov)
Venue	Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Theme	'Vikas aur Virasat' (Development and Heritage)
Organiser	ITPO – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Point	Details
Opened by	Piyush Goyal, Union Commerce Minister
Partner States	Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
Focus States	Assam, Delhi, Jharkhand, West Bengal
Scale	3,500+ exhibitors; 17 halls; 32 States/UTs; 11 countries
Highlights	Hall of Inspiration (~600 start-ups); ODOP pavilion (21 States)

Background

- ITPO: the Government of India's trade-promotion agency works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It was formed on 1 January 1992 by merging the Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI, 1977) with the Trade Development Authority (TDA). Its headquarters is Pragati Bhawan, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. IITF is held every year at Pragati Maidan on 14–27 November.
- Bharat Mandapam: PM Narendra Modi opened the redeveloped International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan on 26 July 2023 and named it 'Bharat Mandapam'. Recent themes: 2024 (43rd) – 'Viksit Bharat @2047'; 2025 (44th) – 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. At the opening, Goyal reportedly said Bharat Mandapam's exhibition capacity will be nearly doubled and that ITPO will hold international fairs in FTA partner countries.
- Economy: trade fairs aid export promotion and give MSMEs and artisans market access. The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative promotes each district's distinctive product. The Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) certification scheme, stressing quality and environment, is run by the Union MSME Ministry (revamped April 2022). Goyal reportedly stressed the ZED approach in his opening address.

Tamil Nadu link: ITPO's Tamil Nadu arm is the Chennai Trade Centre at Nandambakkam, run by the Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO), a joint venture of ITPO and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO); its exhibition halls were commissioned in January 2001. Tamil Nadu is not among IITF 2026's Partner or Focus States; no details of a Tamil Nadu pavilion have yet appeared in reliable sources.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal opened the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2026), organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 13 November 2026.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Edition / dates: 45th; 14–27 Nov 2026 (opening 13 Nov); Venue: Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi; Theme: 'Vikas aur Virasat' (Development and Heritage); Organiser: ITPO – Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

What is the background to this news?

ITPO: the Government of India's trade-promotion agency works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It was formed on 1 January 1992 by merging the Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI, 1977) with the Trade Development Authority (TDA).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. ITPO, which organises IITF, was formed in 1992 by merging the Trade Fair Authority of India with which body?

A) FIEO

B) Trade Devt Authority

C) EXIM Bank

D) Export Insp. Council

Answer: B – Explanation: The Trade Development Authority (TDA) – 1 Jan 1992. ITPO is under the Commerce Ministry; HQ Pragati Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. What is the theme of the 45th India International Trade Fair that opened at Bharat Mandapam in Nov 2026?

A) Ek Bharat Shreshtha

B) Viksit Bharat @2047

C) Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

D) Vikas aur Virasat

Answer: D – Explanation: 'Vikas aur Virasat' (Development and Heritage), 14–27 Nov. 2025 – Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat; 2024 – Viksit Bharat @2047.

3. Which ministry runs the 'ZED' certification scheme that raises quality and green practices in small firms?

A) MSME Ministry

B) Commerce & Industry

C) Heavy Industries

D) Environment Ministry

Answer: A – Explanation: The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises; the revamped 'MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification' began in April 2022.

4. TNTPO, which runs the Chennai Trade Centre at Nandambakkam, is a joint venture of ITPO and which TN agency?

A) SIPCOT

B) TANSIDCO

C) ELCOT

D) TIDCO

Answer: D – Explanation: Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO). The centre's exhibition halls were commissioned in Jan 2001.

5. Which of these was a 'Focus State', not a Partner State, at IITF 2026?

A) Bihar

B) Rajasthan

C) Assam

D) Maharashtra

Answer: C – Explanation: Assam – a Focus State with Delhi, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Partners: Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, UP.

Sources: PIB (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Nov 2026); ITPO (itpo.gov.in/iitf); ANI; DD News; News On AIR (2024 theme); The Tribune (2025 theme); PIB (MSME – ZED, 29.04.2022). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.