

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme

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The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, launched in 1964, is India's flagship development cooperation initiative for sharing its technical expertise, knowledge and developmental experience with partner countries. Through training, technical assistance and capacity building, it has evolved into an important instrument of India's South-South Cooperation, Global South engagement and development diplomacy.

About Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme

The **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme** is a flagship bilateral development cooperation programme of the Government of India, instituted by a decision of the Union Cabinet on 15 September **1964**. It aims to share India's technical expertise, knowledge and developmental experience with partner countries.

- It is administered by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- It is a fully funded programme of the Government of India.
- It covers 161 partner countries across Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific and Small Island countries.

- Its main focus is on capacity building, skill development, technical assistance and knowledge sharing.
- It covers areas such as governance, public administration, digital technology, agriculture, finance, health, **renewable energy**, climate change and **disaster management**.
- It is based on the principles of mutual benefit, partnership and **South-South Cooperation**.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme Role and Working

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme primarily works by building the human and institutional capacities of partner countries. It provides specialised training and technical assistance to government officials and professionals, enabling them to gain knowledge and skills in areas relevant to their countries' developmental needs.

- The programme follows a largely demand-driven approach. Partner countries identify their capacity-building requirements, after which eligible participants are nominated through the concerned authorities.
- These participants undertake specialised training through Indian universities, government institutions, training centres and other approved institutions.
- After completing their training, they return to their home countries and apply the knowledge and skills gained to contribute to institutional and national development.

The exact eligibility requirements, duration of training and facilities provided to participants may vary according to the specific course and applicable programme guidelines.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme Expanding Role

Recent initiatives demonstrate that the ITEC Programme is expanding beyond conventional technical training into specialised and executive-level capacity building:

- **NHRC**, in collaboration with MEA, organised an ITEC Executive Programme for senior officials of National Human Rights Institutions from the **Global South**.
- Rashtriya Raksha University conducted an ITEC programme on Geoinformatics, Disaster Risk Reduction and National Security.
- India and Romania agreed to double ITEC training opportunities for Romanian participants.

These examples show ITEC's expansion into human rights, technology, disaster management and national security.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme Components and Modes

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme delivers capacity-building and technical cooperation through multiple modes to meet the varied needs of partner countries.

- **Regular ITEC**: Short-term training programmes conducted in India through universities, government institutions and specialised training centres.

- **e-ITEC:** Online training and capacity-building programmes that enable participation without travelling to India.
- **ITEC-Onsite:** Training conducted in partner countries to address their specific technical and institutional needs.
- **ITEC Executive:** Specialised programmes for senior officials and institutional leaders focusing on governance, policy and leadership.
- **Technical Assistance and Expertise:** Sharing Indian expertise through expert deputation, consultancy and other forms of technical cooperation as required by partner countries.

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Significance

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme is significant as it transforms India's developmental experience and technical expertise into an instrument of capacity building, South-South Cooperation and development diplomacy.

- **Strengthens Development Partnership:** Builds human and institutional capacities in partner countries.
- **Promotes South-South Cooperation:** Enables developing countries to share knowledge and solutions to common challenges.
- **Enhances India's Soft Power:** Creates goodwill through India's expertise, training and developmental experience.
- **Supports Global South Diplomacy:** Converts India's engagement with the Global South into practical cooperation.
- **Shares India's Experience:** Provides learning opportunities in areas such as Digital Public Infrastructure, financial inclusion, agriculture and disaster management.
- **Builds Long-Term Linkages:** Creates professional and institutional networks between India and partner countries.
- **Supports Sustainable Development:** Strengthens the capacity of partner countries to address developmental and emerging challenges.
- **Enhances India's Role as a Knowledge Partner:** Positions India as a provider of technical expertise, skills and development solutions.

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