



भारत सरकार
संस्कृति मंत्रालय
नई दिल्ली-110 001
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
NEW DELHI-110 001

MINISTRY OF CULTURE · GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale 2026

THE SECOND EDITION · NEW DELHI · 4 DECEMBER 2026 – 21 MARCH
2027

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Greetings from the Ministry of Culture.

We write to invite you to be part of the second edition of the India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale 2026 the largest platform of its kind that the Ministry of Culture has offered to artists, curators, galleries, corporates, architects, designers, cultural institutions and other stakeholders connected to the culture and creative world. Following the success of the inaugural edition in 2023, this second edition opens Delhi itself as the venue: for four months, from 4 December 2026 to 21 March 2027, the city's most significant monuments and institutions will host a single, connected celebration of contemporary art, architecture and design under a unique public private partnership.

For the first time ever, a wide range of heritage monuments, institutional spaces and precincts across Delhi are open for curators and partners to choose from. You select the venue that speaks to your work; you curate your exhibition, pavilion or artwork with complete creative freedom, aligned to the theme; and the Ministry of Culture stands behind you facilitating the venue and offering cross-branding and promotion, so the whole effort reads as one city, one canvas, together.

Curatorial statement: *Tat Tvam Asi* (You Are That) - Reconnecting in an Age of Distraction.

We live in the most connected moment in human history, and often the least attentive. The pace of modern life, its speed, its abundance, its endless claims on our attention, has thinned three essential connections: with ourselves, with each other, and with the built and natural world we inherit. This is not the fault of any



single force. Technology, like the city itself, is what we make of it: it can scatter attention or gather it, distance us or draw us close.

The second edition of the India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale 2026 takes as its title the oldest answer to this newest condition “Tat Tvam Asi”, "You Are That", the Upanishadic insight that the self is not separate from the world it beholds. Across Delhi, its monuments and museums, its institutions, galleries, embassies, studios and streets, artists, architects and designers are invited to make works that slow the eye, return the body to the city, and restore what haste has worn thin. All languages of making belong here: the handmade and the digital, the ancient craft and the immersive new medium. Digital and new-media art are also welcomed not as an ailment but as instruments of encounter, technology turned back toward attention, presence and wonder.

Through the four threads of Reflection, Rejuvenation, Renewal and Resilience, and through the five senses as a shared lens, the Biennale proposes every venue, monument, museum, gallery or precinct, not as backdrop but as mirror. To stand before it is to stand before yourself. You are that.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

The Biennale is designed to be entered from wherever you stand. Whichever path fits you, the invitation is the same: choose your venue, curate freely, and let the Ministry help carry the reach and the branding.

- **The Ministry of Culture Pavilion, Purana Qila.** The Biennale's principal venue carries the flagship, Ministry-curated exhibition - the anchor around which the rest of the second edition is built.
- **State & UT Pavilions, Purana Qila.** Selected States and Union Territories will be offered dedicated pavilion space at Purana Qila itself. The Ministry provides the pavilion shell and overall event management; each State designs, curates and builds its own pavilion, telling its own cultural story.
- **Adopt a monument.** Curators and corporate partners can adopt an individual heritage site from across Delhi, commission and install site-specific artworks, and curate, produce and manage the exhibition in collaboration with the Ministry - with programming aligned to the Biennale theme.

- **Host in your own precinct.** Embassies are invited to host artworks and programming within their own precincts as part of the Biennale's international layer - bringing their own artists, curators and cultural voice into the citywide conversation while retaining full ownership of their space.
- **Open a private collection.** Artist studios, collectors and institutions who hold private collections are warmly invited to open them to the public for the duration of the Biennale - a rare chance to place a personal or institutional collection within a citywide cultural moment, under the Biennale's shared branding and promotion.
- **Partner as an institution.** Museums, foundations and cultural institutions can mount independent exhibitions aligned with the Biennale, with shared branding, collaborative programming, and space for workshops, lectures and public engagement.
- **Present a collateral show.** Private galleries can present collateral exhibitions under cross-branding with the Biennale identity, fully independent in curatorial direction, and connected to the wider public through a city-wide art trail linking galleries to Biennale venues.
- **Support the Student Biennale.** Run through the National School of Drama, Lalit Kala Akademi and other venues, the Student Biennale is a national open call inviting young artists and design students from across India to exhibit their work, with curatorial mentorship and limited grant support for selected projects. Corporates and institutions are warmly invited to support and mentor this platform - it is where the next generation of Indian artists will first be seen.
- **Knowledge & Innovation:** IITs and other institutions leading talks and discussions on digital heritage, immersive/XR, built-heritage documentation, Indian Knowledge Systems and craft/material research.
- **Performances (Music & Theatre):** Programs across monuments, public places and auditoria, aligned to the Biennale theme.

A CURATED WHOLE, NOT A LOOSE COLLECTION OF SHOWS

Every venue and pathway sits within a single curatorial vision. A Curatorial Council of the country's most respected curators, drawn from across disciplines, is guiding the overall direction, anchoring individual venues, and ensuring the many independent exhibitions across the city speak to one another and to the theme. You curate your own show with full freedom; the Council's role is to hold the larger

story together, so a visitor moving from one monument to the next experiences one Biennale, not several unconnected ones.

THE STUDENT BIENNALE

A dedicated strand of the second edition, the Student Biennale is a national open call for art and design students, sited across the National School of Drama, Lalit Kala Akademi and other possible venues. Young artists from across India will exhibit installations selected through open call, with curatorial mentorship and corporate support for selected projects, and the Ministry facilitating venue, security and logistics throughout. Corporates funding the Student Biennale, and institutions willing to mentor participating students, play a direct role in shaping the careers of India's next generation of artists and designers.

THE SCALE OF THE SECOND EDITION

- 50+ venues across Delhi — heritage monuments, institutional spaces, historical precincts and private galleries — brought together for the first time as one interconnected cultural canvas.
- 20+ State and Union Territory pavilions, each self-curated, at Purana Qila.
- A dedicated Student Biennale, open to art and design schools nationwide.
- Embassy-hosted programming within embassy precincts, and international artist participation under discussion with several regional and embassy partners.
- Private collections opened to the public for the duration of the run.
- Public programming across the run - heritage walks, workshops, performances and talks - keeping venues alive for the full four months.

WHAT THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE PROVIDES

- Access to the venue, and support with clearances and logistics.
- Cross-branding under the Biennale identity, and promotion across the Ministry's and the Biennale's own channels.
- A citywide platform that positions Delhi itself, in the words of the Biennale, as one interconnected cultural canvas.
- Curatorial coordination through the Curatorial Council, so your show is part of a larger, well-told story.

WHY TAKE PART

This is the first time a Biennale of this scale has offered artists, curators, galleries, corporates and private collectors a genuine choice of venue across a capital city's heritage and institutional landscape - with full creative freedom on what you present. It is a chance to place your work, your artists, your collection or your institution's name alongside some of India's most significant monuments, in front of audiences the Ministry will actively bring to the city over a four-month run. Whether you lead a gallery, a foundation, a corporate arts programme, an embassy's cultural desk, or simply care where Indian contemporary art goes next, there is a place for you here — and we would be glad to shape it together with you.

To express interest or discuss venue options, please contact

Shah Faesal · +91-9596680511

Email: iaadb@gov.in

shahfaesal.iasjk@nic.in

*India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale 2026 · Ministry of Culture,
Government of India*

ANNEXURE
List of Venues Across Delhi

This list is indicative of the range on offer and continues to grow as further sites are confirmed. Once you indicate interest, we will share venue capacities and specifics so you can choose the site best suited to your work.

Major ASI / Heritage Venues

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Purana Qila | • Humayun's Tomb | • Jantar Mantar |
| • Red Fort | • Safdarjung Tomb | • Mehrauli
Archaeological Park |
| • Qutub Minar Complex | • Qila Rai Pithora | • Sunder Nursery |
| • Jamali Kamali | | |

*Many minor heritage sites and lesser-known monuments of Delhi like Biran Ka Gumbad Green Park may also be considered

Institutional Venues

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • National Gallery of Modern Art | • Sangeet Natak Akademi |
| • IGNCA | • National School of Drama |
| • Lalit Kala Akademi | • Sahitya Akademi |
| • PMML | • National Archives of India |

Historical Precincts & Clusters

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| • Hauz Khas | • ChaaRGumbadh – Defence Colony |
| • Maidan Garhi | • Sabz Burj Area |
| • Chandni Chowk | • Tughlaqabad Fort |
| • Shahpur Jat | |

*Not an exhaustive list of venues.

**If your favorite venue/heritage site is not in the list, please write to us. We might be able to get