

INDIA ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN BIENNALE 2026

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is organizing the India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2026 at multiple venues in Delhi, with Purana Quila as the principal venue.

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 Reconnection, 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.

The Ministry invites proposals from artists, curators, galleries, designers, architects, art houses, institutions, creative practitioners, students and other organizations for consideration for inclusion in the Biennale.

Proposals may include:

- Exhibitions and installations
- Art, architecture and design projects
- Curated exhibitions and programs
- Performances and public programming
- Experimental and interdisciplinary projects
- Student Biennale proposals and student-led projects
- Any other offering.

Selection: Proposals will be screened by the Ministry of Culture team and shortlisted on the basis of:

- Alignment with the theme “Tat Tvam Asi”
- Artistic, curatorial, architectural or design quality
- Originality and relevance
- Technical and operational feasibility
- Ability to contribute meaningfully to the Biennale
- Feasibility for the site.

Only proposals meeting the required standards will be considered for presentation at Ministry of Culture venues.

The Ministry particularly encourages proposals that are able to secure private sponsorship, institutional support or other non-governmental resources. A Public-Private Partnership approach will be preferred, with the objective of enabling the highest quality of programming.

Submission of a proposal does not constitute an assurance of selection, space allocation or financial support by the Ministry.

Submission of Proposals

Interested applicants may submit their proposals to:

Email: iaadb@gov.in

Proposals should clearly indicate the concept, relevance to “Tat Tvam

Asi”, proposed format, space/infrastructure requirements, estimated budget and proposed sources of funding/sponsorship, wherever applicable. Proposals shall be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to meeting the prescribed eligibility and selection criteria.

The Ministry of Culture reserves the right to shortlist, modify, consolidate or decline proposals based on curatorial quality, thematic relevance, feasibility and availability of space.

India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale, 2026-2027
Ministry of Culture, Government of India