INDIA BIENNALE 2026

Briefing note for Indian Missions.

4 December 2026 – 21 March 2027 | New Delhi, India
Theme: TAT TVAM ASI

1. The India Biennale 2026–27

The India Biennale 2026–27, scheduled from 4 December 2026 to 21 March 2027 in New Delhi, is a major cultural initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Its first edition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2023. Spanning nearly four months, it will bring together art, architecture, design, heritage and cultural experiences across multiple venues in New Delhi creating a platform for **artistic expression and international engagement.**

2. What is a Biennale?

A Biennale is a large-scale international cultural event that brings together artists, curators, architects, designers, institutions and audiences through exhibitions, installations, performances and discussions. Globally, Biennales serve as important platforms for contemporary creative expression and cross-cultural exchange.

The India Biennale seeks to establish India as a prominent destination on this international cultural landscape, bringing its rich heritage into dialogue with contemporary artistic practices.

3. A Public–Private Partnership

The India Biennale 2026 follows a distinctive public–private partnership model. The Ministry of Culture facilitates the initiative by providing venues, logistical support and security for participating organisations, while the programme is developed and delivered by participating organisations and cultural partners.

This collaborative framework brings together government institutions, private organisations, foundations and galleries to create a diverse, city-wide cultural programme.

4. Delhi as a Cultural Destination

The Biennale will activate a network of venues across Delhi, including historic monuments, heritage sites, museums and leading cultural institutions. By bringing art and cultural programming into these spaces, it will offer audiences new ways to engage with the city's history and contemporary creative landscape.

Historical monuments and heritage sites:
Purana Qila, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Hauz Khas, Agrasen ki Baoli, Humayun's Tomb, Lodhi Garden, Mehrauli, Qila Rai Pithora, Safdarjung Tomb, Sabz Burj and Ferozeshah Kotla.

Cultural institutions:
National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Lalit Kala Akademi, National Museum, National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi and India Habitat Centre.

5. 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 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.

The theme, *Tat Tvam Asi*—"That Thou Art" or "You Are That"—explores interconnectedness, shared humanity and our relationship with the world around us.

The Biennale's programme brings together three principal dimensions:

Exhibitions: Leading art institutions, galleries and cultural organisations, including NMACC, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), DAG, Vedanta and JSW, among others, contribute to a diverse exhibition programme.

Immersive experiences: Cultural performances from across India and abroad, workshops, lectures and other live experiences will complement exhibitions. Collateral shows by participating organisations will also be integrated into the Biennale calendar through co-branding.

International participation: Countries and cultural partners with confirmed participation include Italy, the Netherlands, France, Australia, the British Council, Hungary, Lithuania and Switzerland, among others, bringing diverse artistic practices and perspectives to the Biennale.

Student Biennale: A dedicated focus on students and emerging creative practitioners will encourage engagement with art, architecture, design and heritage, nurturing the next generation of creative talent.

6. Experiencing the Biennale

The Biennale is conceived as a city-wide cultural experience for all our visitors. Audiences can explore the programme and access visitor information through the official website:

https://indiabiennale.culture.gov.in/

Visitors can book a Biennale Pass through the website, offering one-day access to participating monuments to experience artworks, live performances, workshops, lectures and other scheduled activities across the venues.

7. Support from Indian Missions Abroad

ICCR is requested to facilitate the circulation of this concept note among Indian Missions abroad and encourage their support in promoting the India Biennale 2026–27.

Missions are requested to:

- Publicise the Biennale through official websites, social media, newsletters and other communication channels, including the official website link.
- Engage local cultural networks, including museums, galleries, artists, curators, universities, architects, designers and cultural institutions.
- Highlight the scale and significance of the initiative, its heritage venues, public–private partnership model, programme diversity and international participation.
- Reach potential visitors and stakeholders, tour and travel operators, travel magazines, media organisations, tourism networks and audiences interested in India's art and heritage.

This outreach will help build international awareness and encourage wider engagement with the Biennale.

8. A Global Cultural Destination

The India Biennale offers a significant opportunity for artists, architects, designers, institutions, collectors and cultural enthusiasts to come together on a shared platform.

Its long-term vision is to become an eagerly anticipated fixture on the international cultural calendar and an integral part of India's winter holiday season, attracting visitors from India and abroad. With sustained international outreach and participation, the Biennale aspires to emerge as a cultural destination in its own right, strengthening India's presence in global art, cultural exchange and heritage tourism.

The support of Indian Missions will be vital in advancing this vision and connecting the India Biennale with audiences across the world.

INDIA BIENNALE 2026–27
TAT TVAMASI
4 December 2026 – 21 March 2027 | New Delhi, India
Website: https://indiabiennale.culture.gov.in/