



The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is proposing to organize an International Conference on “Bharat’s Cultural Connections across Asia and Beyond” from 14–16 October 2026. The Brihattar Bharat Scheme under the Global Engagement Scheme of the Ministry of Culture is being administered under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Schedule of the conference

Day 1:

Inauguration of the Conference by
Hon’ble Prime Minister
Shri. Narendra Modi

Day 2 & 3:

Academic Sessions on the Themes:

- Early Linkages and Civilizational Encounters
- Religious Traditions, Knowledge Systems and Philosophy
- Languages as Bridges across Civilizations
- Ideas Visualized in Art
- Textile and Attire Traditions
- Cuisine and Culinary Exchange
- Cultural Expression and Fusion
- Performing Arts and Living Traditions
- Trade and Commerce as carriers of goods and ideas
- Diaspora, Preservation & Continuities

Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Minister of Culture and Tourism

Shri. Vivek Aggarwal
Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Shri. Ram Bahadur Rai
President, IGNCA

Shri Arvind Kumar
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi
Member Secretary, IGNCA

Convenor

Prof. (Dr.) D. C. Choubey
HoD, Brihattar Bharat and Area Studies, IGNCA

Organising Committee

Prof. (Dr.) Achal Pandya
HoD, Conservation, IGNCA

Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Lall
HoD, Kalakosha, IGNCA

Dr. Richa Kamboj
HoD, Kaladarshan, IGNCA

Prof. K. Anil Kumar
HoD, Janapada Sampada and Kala Nidhi, IGNCA

Dr. Richa Negi
HoD, Rock Art, IGNCA

Shri. Virender Bangroo
Incharge, Cultural Archives, IGNCA

Dr. Ajit Kumar
Director, Brihattar Bharat

Dr. Ajay Kumar Mishra
Assoc. Prof., Brihattar Bharat and Area Studies, IGNCA

Shri. Anurag Punetha
Controller, Media Centre, IGNCA

Administrative Coordination

Dr. Shah Faisal
Director (Administration), IGNCA



BRIHATTAR BHARAT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

BHARAT'S CULTURAL CONNECTIONS ACROSS ASIA AND BEYOND



“बहुजनहिताय बहुजनसुखाय लोकानुकम्पाय”

Bahujanahitāya-Bahujanasukhāya-Lokānukampāya

"For the welfare of many, for the happiness of many, and out of compassion for the world"

Brihattar Bharat: A Background



- Brihattar Bharat denotes the wider civilizational sphere shaped by the transmission and adaptation of Indian cultural, philosophical, artistic, and religious traditions across Asia and beyond.
- Extending from the Buddhist monastic corridors of Central Asia and the overland trade routes of Eurasia to the temple civilizations of Southeast Asia and the Buddhist worlds of East Asia.
- Civilizational evidence survives in inscriptions, monumental complexes, literary traditions, and shared artistic vocabularies spanning nearly two millennia — 3rd century BCE to 15th century CE.
- The Brihattar Bharat Conference re-examines India's historical global connections, using regional cultural linkages as entry points for renewed academic inquiry into its shared civilizational heritage.

- India and Southeast Asia
- India and East Asia
- India and Central Asia
- India and West Asia
- India and Europe
- India and the Global Diaspora

Focus of the Conference

- Convened to mark the centenary of the Greater India Society (Brihattar Bharat Parishad), (estb. October 1926), the conference aims to honour its founders and renew the scholarly mission they set in motion.
- It will seek to map India's civilizational presence across Asia and beyond — tracing the scholars, traders, and travellers who carried Indian philosophy, art, and culture outward through centuries of peaceful exchange.
- The conference will work to cultivate Bharat-centric scholarly frameworks, inviting interdisciplinary voices to develop methodologies rooted in indigenous values rather than colonial or Euro-American paradigms.
- It will aim to facilitate access to scattered global archives, support joint UNESCO and World Heritage nominations, and contribute to embedding Brihattar Bharat studies in academic curricula.
- The conference will endeavour to reclaim this civilizational dialogue as a living field of inquiry — one with deep scholarly relevance and enduring contemporary significance.
- The conference seeks to bring together scholars, researchers, practitioners, and heritage professionals from diverse disciplines to examine India's historical and contemporary civilizational interactions through fresh evidence, interdisciplinary approaches, and critical perspectives.

Themes of the Conference

Early Linkages & Civilizational Interface

Religious Traditions, Knowledge Systems and philosophy

Languages as bridges across Civilizations

Ideas Visualized in Art

Textile and Attire Traditions

Cuisine and Culinary Exchange

Cultural Expression and Fusion

Performing Arts and Living Traditions

Trade and Commerce as carriers of Goods and Ideas

Diaspora, Preservation and Continuities

