



संस्कृति मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
CULTURE



International Conference
on

Bharat's Cultural Connections across Asia and Beyond

14 – 16th October 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

"बहुजनहिताय बहुजनसुखाय लोकानुकम्पाय"

Bahujanahitāya Bahujanasukhāya Lokānukampāya

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

Research papers are invited from scholars to participate in the International Conference on ***"Bharat's Cultural Connections across Asia and Beyond"*** to be held from 14-16th October in New Delhi, India.

Concept Note

The idea of **Brihattar Bharat** refers to the wider civilizational sphere shaped by the movement, adaptation, and exchange of Indian cultural, philosophical, artistic, linguistic, and religious traditions across Asia and beyond and vice versa. Rather than a political or territorial construct, it represents centuries of intercultural dialogue fostered through trade, pilgrimage, scholarship, maritime networks, migration, diplomacy, and intellectual exchange. These interactions created enduring connections between India and regions including Southeast Asia, East Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, Europe, and the global Indian diaspora.

The legacy of these exchanges survives in inscriptions, manuscripts, temples, monuments, literature, performing arts, languages, knowledge systems, artistic traditions, and living cultural practices across a vast geographical landscape. Equally significant are the reciprocal influences through which India absorbed and reinterpreted ideas from the cultures with which it interacted, making *Brihattar Bharat* a history of shared civilizational development rather than one of unilateral cultural diffusion.

The year 2026 marks the **Centenary of the Greater India Society (Brihattar Bharat Parishad) 1926–2026**, founded by eminent scholars including Radhakumud Mookerji, Prabodh Chandra Bagchi, Jadunath Sarkar, Suniti Kumar Chatterji, R.C. Majumdar, Kalidas Nag, and others under the intellectual inspiration of Rabindranath Tagore. Their pioneering work laid the foundations for the systematic study of India's transregional civilizational linkages and continues to inspire contemporary scholarship.

To commemorate this landmark and to advance research in the field, the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**, under the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India**, is organizing the **International Conference on Bharat's Cultural Connections across Asia and**

Beyond. The conference also forms part of the **Brihattar Bharat Scheme (2026–2031)**, a national initiative dedicated to promoting research, documentation, preservation, digitization, and identification of India's shared cultural and civilizational heritage with the wider world.

The conference seeks to bring together scholars, researchers, practitioners, and heritage professionals from diverse disciplines to focus on India's historical and contemporary civilizational interactions through fresh evidence, interdisciplinary approaches, and critical perspectives. It aims to encourage new scholarship on transregional cultural exchanges, facilitate international academic collaboration, and contribute to a deeper understanding of the interconnected histories that have shaped Asia and beyond.

Original research papers are invited on themes relating to religion and knowledge systems, languages and literary traditions, art and architecture, archaeology and epigraphy, maritime and overland cultural exchanges, culinary, lifestyles, performing arts, diaspora studies, heritage documentation, and other aspects of India's civilizational interactions across regions and cultures.

Sub-themes and Focus areas:

1. Early Linkages and Civilizational Interface
2. Religious Traditions, Knowledge Systems and Philosophy
3. Languages across civilizations: Transmission, Translation and Literary Bridges
4. Ideas Visualized in Art
5. Textile and Attire tradition
6. Cuisine and Culinary Exchanges
7. Cultural Expression and Fusion
8. Performing Arts and Living Traditions
9. Trade and Commerce as carriers of Goods and Ideas
10. Diaspora Communities, Cultural Preservation and Civilizational Continuities

Submission Guidelines:

- **Abstract:**

Please send an abstract of your research paper, comprising 200-500 words, in a Word document format, in English **12 font (size) in 'Times New Roman'** and in Hindi **14 font (size) in Unicode Mangal/ Devlys 010/ Krutidev 010** by **31st August, 2026**. The abstract should concisely outline the scope and principal finds of your research.

Please submit your abstract and complete your registration through the Google Form link <https://forms.gle/KqTcGcgj3HSwWGHE7>

- **Research paper:**

The full-length research paper should have a minimum word count of 3500 words, including the bibliography, and should be submitted in Word document format. The paper should adhere to academic standards and include clear citations and references. **The deadline for submitting the research paper is 10th September, 2026.**

Please ensure that your *Full Paper submissions* comply with the guidelines and deadlines. Submission should be sent to: brihattarbharatconference@gmail.com with the subject line "*Submission: [Title of Research paper]*."

For any queries contact: +91-112 344 6464 Or on: brihattarbhatarconference@gmail.com

We are here to help with any conference related queries you may have.