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# India wins the Visitors' Lion for Best National Participation at the 61st Venice Art Biennale

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 India has won the Visitors' Lion for Best National Participation at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia (Biennale Arte 2026). The Venice Biennale is widely called the Olympics of the art world. La Biennale di Venezia today announced the winners of the Visitors' Lions on the basis of the preferences expressed by the public.

Commenting on the result, Pietrangelo Buttafuoco, President of La Biennale di Venezia, said the audience had used the Visitors' Award to make real Pablo Picasso's idea that "a painting lives only through the person who looks at it."

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat the Union Minister of Culture said that it is a moment of immense pride for the nation. "This global recognition is a testament to the new age Indian artists and the robust contemporary Indian art scene. It is a celebration of how India's timeless artistic traditions can find powerful contemporary expression and resonate with people across the world. The award will inspire generations of Indian artists to engage with the world with verve and confidence."

Secretary Culture Vivek Aggarwal said on this occasion: "India's recognition with the prestigious



Visitor's Lion at the Venice Biennale is an immense honour and a moment of national pride. It is a powerful affirmation of India's contemporary artistic expressions, deeply rooted in our civilizational ethos and material traditions, finding resonance with audiences from across the world. India's return to the Venice Biennale after a long hiatus marks a significant moment in our renewed engagement with the global cultural landscape. The Pavilion has been part of global conversations on art since its inauguration, reflected in the overwhelmingly positive reviews, enthusiastic feedback and extraordinary footfall of visitors and art connoisseurs from across the world.This recognition marks an important milestone in India's cultural journey and reaffirms the universal relevance and appeal of our diverse, dynamic and evolving creative expressions."